

OMANU PRESCHOOL

Information Booklet

2023 - 2024

High quality care and education
for 2-5 year olds.

Open 7.30am-5.00pm.

www.omanupreschool.co.nz





We are a high quality, independently owned Early Childhood Education provider for two to five year olds in central Mount Maunganui.

What we offer:

- A high-quality, safe, learning environment which celebrates each child.
- Flexible hours, open 7.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday.
- A highly qualified, passionate teaching team, with 100% of teachers ECE qualified and certified.
- Nutritional morning and afternoon tea provided daily.
- Uniquely positioned next door to Omanu Primary School, supporting positive pathways for future learning. Our close relationship with the school builds connections for our tamariki through regular excursions such as waiata and other events.
- Relationship-based learning; each child has the opportunity to build a strong, reciprocal relationship with a `Key' teacher. The key teacher is the person who will support your child to settle into the preschool and build relationships with their peers and other teachers. The key teacher will initially be responsible for key care moments with your child such as toileting, so that your child can feel confident that their needs are consistently met here at preschool.
- Individual and group learning programmes and experiences are beautifully documented within individual learning journals, and are also available to parents, family and whānau online via Storypark.
- Place based education within our local community.

The preschool is led by Helen van der Merwe, a passionate early childhood teacher, advocate for children and leader with over 17 years of experience within the NZ early childhood sector. Helen holds a Bachelors Degree of Teaching (ECE) and Full Teacher Certification from the New Zealand Teaching Council. Helen works closely together with our highly qualified, passionate teaching team to create an inspiring, empowering learning environment for all tamariki.



Omanu Preschool

Rapunga whakaaro – Our philosophy

Our philosophy embodies the four principles of the early childhood curriculum -

Te Whāriki – He whāriki mātauranga mō ngā mokopuna o Aotearoa:

Empowerment, Holistic Development, Family and Community, and Relationships.

We have a strong commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi;

weaving the principles of Partnership, Protection and Participation into all areas of our practice

as we strive to honour the unique position of Māori as Tangata Whenua in Aotearoa.

Empowerment | Whakamana:

We value a learning environment in which all akonga/learners and their play are honoured and celebrated. Our environment is intentional and engaging in order to foster curiosity and creativity through loose parts, natural, and recycled materials. A place in which akonga feel empowered to be themselves, enhancing their mana and that of others. It is a special space where tamariki create memories with their friends, kaiako, and whānau as they learn and make discoveries together; inspiring a lifelong love of learning. We value our kaiako as our most valuable resource. Our kaiako are passionate, inspired, highly experienced people; they bring with them their own strengths and passions which we value, encouraging them to share these talents within our community of learners.

Holistic development | Kotahitanga:

(Cognitive, physical, emotional, and spiritual development interwoven with social and cultural dimensions)

Our teaching team is passionate about celebrating each and every tamaiti within our community. We take a holistic and inclusive view of our akonga as strong, capable and resilient, with the belief that every tamaiti is gifted with a unique cultural identity, strengths, interests, and learning dispositions. We build on these gifts and empower each tamaiti to develop a view of themselves as an active learner. We encourage tamariki to question, take risks and problem solve, setting and achieving their own learning goals as they begin to wonder and develop theories and knowledge, while actively exploring the wider world around them.

Family and Community | Whānau Tangata:

We understand the trust that whānau place in us, and respect and celebrate the unique position that we have in supporting the aspirations that whānau have for their tamaiti. We promote open and reciprocal whanaungatanga relationships, dedicated to supporting the learning journey of each tamaiti. We also strive to support tamariki to develop connecting links within the wider local community, with regular opportunities to connect with local people, resources, and the environment with materials drawn from nature. We understand that in order for tamariki to make the most of their world, they must first form an attachment with the earth and an understanding of their place within it.

Relationships | Ngā Hononga:

Relationships are at the heart of all that we do. We believe in fostering partnerships, sharing values, teaching and learning together. The relationships tamariki form are a key factor in the success of their learning journey. Each tamaiti and whānau will have their own key teacher who forms the primary relationship to support their transition, and who they are able to share information and weave a respectful partnership with. Through establishing this foundation tamariki and whānau are able to develop a sense of belonging and feel confident and empowered to explore, learn and play.



Omanu Preschool - Fee Schedule 2023

To build continuity, and support children to build relationships and a sense of belonging within their learning environment, we have a requirement that children attend a minimum of **two days per week**. Our minimum session time is **6 hours per day**.

We aim to continue to provide a top-quality care and education service with 100% qualified, experienced teachers, who are there to ensure the best outcomes for you and your family.

Our Fee Schedule from Monday 27th of February 2023 is as follow:

<u>(2- to 3-year-olds)</u>		<u>(3–5-year-olds using 20hrs ECE)</u>
6-hour day:	\$52.00	20 hrs ECE – Free
Full Day:	\$65.00	*Optional Charge of (\$8per day)
Maximum weekly rate:	\$295.00	\$13.65 p/h for extra hours outside 20hrs ECE-Subsidy
		Caping weekly fee at \$215

Three- to Five-year-olds:

The government funds 20 ECE hours for children aged 3 years and over for up to 6 hours per day, to a maximum of 20 hours per week. These hours are not income tested and all children in New Zealand are eligible for these hours.

For children three and over who attend over the subsidised 20 ECE hours, or for children 3 and over whose families choose not to use their attested hours at Omanu Preschool the standard hourly rate of \$13.65 per hour will apply for these hours.

However, the Ministry of Education funding does not cover all Centre costs. To assist with expenses that will enhance your child's early childhood experience, we ask families to support through an ***optional charge** of \$8 per day, for children using 20 hours ECE.

***Optional charges** ensure that the centre continue to maintain a high standard of education, including employing trained, experienced, and registered early childhood teachers above required ministry ratio requirements.

All ***optional charges** received from families are channelled back into children's learning and well-being and sense of belonging within the centre. These **optional charges*** assist with meeting the daily running costs of our service.

- ***The optional charge supports:**

- Morning tea/Afternoon tea (+\$2 per child per day)
- Better than minimum Teacher to child ratio's (± \$6 per child per day)

Work and Income NZ Childcare Subsidies may be available to you based on income level, it is your responsibility to apply for these subsidies and advise us of this.

Sibling discount: 10% discount for the oldest child.

Terms and Conditions:

- 20 ECE hours for children over 3 years are subsidised hours. Parents/Caregivers must attest that they wish to use these hours with our service to be eligible. The maximum number of subsidised hours which can be used per day is 6 hours, with a maximum of 20 hours per week.
- A \$50 non-refundable enrolment fee is required to secure your place.
- We are open from 7.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday.
- Fees are payable 1 week in advance.
- 2 weeks' notice in writing is required when terminating enrolment/or permanent changes to fees or enrolments.
- Automatic Payment and Internet Banking are our only accepted forms of payment.

We thank you for your prompt payment of fees and support in this area.

Settling in...

We understand that starting preschool can be a big step for children and their families. Our teachers are here to support you and your child every step of the way. We have an open-door policy and welcome you to bring your child in for as many transition visits as you feel necessary before their start date. We recommend a minimum of at least three visits and we will confirm the best times for these to occur with you. These transition visits will support your child in becoming familiar with their new teachers, peers, and the learning environment building their confidence within the transition process.

We use a **'Key Teacher'** system here at Omanu Preschool, this means that your child will have a special teacher whom they are connected with. We provide your child with some time to have interactions with all the teachers to help this process too. This provides your child to choose their Key Teacher too. This teacher will take the opportunity to spend time with you and your child within your initial transition time and communicate as much as possible about your child's journey at Omanu Preschool. The Key teacher will also carry out your child's routine and care moments during the day such as toileting while they are settling, and will be your first port of call for any questions you may have. By having the opportunity to form a close bond with their key teacher, children will develop a sense of belonging within their new learning environment, confident that their needs will be consistently met. Your child's key teacher will also support them to develop relationships with their peers and other teachers within the learning community.

Working in collaboration...

Relationships are a key focus of our philosophy here at Omanu Preschool. As such we value and welcome the contribution of parents and whānau to our daily programme, planning, assessment, policies, and any other areas which you feel able to contribute to. We review our policies and operational documents on a regular basis, there is the opportunity for you to contribute to these through a range of mediums, and we look forward to your feedback and support in these areas. Please feel welcome to let us know if there were any particular area in which you would like to share your passion or strengths and contribute to the preschool learning environment. We love to learn more about your child's family and culture, so support with celebrations and traditions which are important to your family is always welcomed. Your child loves the opportunity to share their learning environment with you, you are always welcome to come and spend time here with your child, and our teachers will always welcome any help you can offer. Suggestions and feedback are also always welcomed, if you would like to talk to your child's key teacher about your child's progress please let us know and we can arrange a suitable time. Helen is also available, feel free to pop into the office at any time, or email manager@omanupreschool.co.nz.

How to access information...

Your child will have their own Learning Journal and all learning stories will be accessible through Storypark. Once a child has started and they have their first story, your child's key teacher will send parents a link by email to set up a Storypark profile. Teachers will give regular updates through Storypark and will provide you with the latest news and events. We have a private Facebook page called 'Omanu Preschool Whanau' and we would love for our families to request to join to keep in touch, share, and keep up to date. Please note that we have some folders at our sign in desk with information that parents can access at any time – ECE Regulations / Licensing Criteria for centre based ECE services / Policies and Procedures for Omanu Preschool / Recent ERO report. We also have a events book close to our entrance for notices or events.

What to send with your child each day...

As working parents ourselves we understand how busy mornings can be! Here at Omanu Preschool, we want to make your mornings as smooth as possible.

What you need to bring for your child:

- A **named** bag with at least three named full changes of clothes, (learning and play can be messy and wet work sometimes!).
- Lunch in a **named** lunch box. We are a nut free centre and discourage whole eggs, but eggs in baking is fine.
- A **named** drink bottle.
- A **named** sunhat - you are welcome to leave your child's named sunhat here at preschool, we will wash these as required.
- Nappies (if your child wears them), or spare underwear (please provide a few if your child is currently toilet-learning).
- In terms one and four we ask that you also sunscreen your child prior to arriving at preschool, we will apply sunscreen for your child again after lunch, (please advise us if your child has any known reaction to any brands of sunscreen).
- We are plastic bag free - please send along a wet bag for your child for wet and sandy clothes.

What we provide...

- A yummy, healthy morning tea and afternoon tea each day.
- Wet wipes.
- Sunscreen.
- Learning journals which capture your child's learning journey here at Omanu Preschool, ensuring that you get to share in the fun! These portfolios are kept in both a hard copy on site, and also online which will be shared with you via email.
- Lots of fun!!!

We look forward to welcoming you and your child into the

Omanu Preschool learning whānau!

