



Learning Links

Childcare



PARENT GENERAL INFORMATION BOOK



Everyone Learning | *Te Katoa e aka ana*
Everyone Leading | *Te Kaa e arahi ana*
Everyone Succeeding | *Te Katea a angitu ana*

WELCOME!

Welcome to Learning Links where children learn, lead and succeed through our unique approach, modern facilities and nurturing environment.

LEARNING

Children learn through play and meaningful real-life experiences, both within the Centre and local community. We support them to develop the essential life skills and characteristics they need in order to thrive in the future.

At Learning Links, we make sure your child has opportunities and experiences that will help them:

- ✓ Learn about and understand the world around them.
- ✓ Learn to value and respect people, places and things.
- ✓ Grow and develop as a socially competent, caring individual.
- ✓ Foster connections with nature.
- ✓ Encouraging children to become active citizens, supporting change toward a more sustainable community.
- ✓ Build a positive awareness of Te Ao Maori, their own and other cultures.
- ✓ Be curious, creative, resourceful, adaptive and resilient.
- ✓ Grow confidence and capabilities in science, literacy and mathematical learning.
- ✓ Build on their personal interests, strengths and needs.

LEADING

The dedicated team at Learning Links teach life skills and the fundamentals of 21st century leadership. Our philosophy is based on the knowledge that there is a leader in everyone and that leaders strive to be the best version of themselves.

Your child will naturally learn to demonstrate leadership by:

- ✓ Being a responsible person and doing the right thing without being asked, even when no-one is looking.
- ✓ Making good choices, in relation to actions and attitudes.
- ✓ Helping others.
- ✓ Influencing others.
- ✓ Setting their own goals.
- ✓ Showing initiative.
- ✓ Fostering persistence.
- ✓ Striving to reach their full potential.

SUCCESSING

At Learning Links, we strongly believe every child has the potential to succeed. Through love and support our children grow and develop as competent, confident learners, healthy in mind body and spirit, secure in their sense of belonging and ready for school.

This means equipping children to strive to reach their potential:

- ✓ Empowering children to have a can-do attitude, make decisions and become increasingly independent.
- ✓ Ensuring learning and development are interrelated and interconnected, supporting children's holistic development (intellectual, physical, social, emotional and spiritual learning).
- ✓ Encouraging learning through responsive, reciprocal relationships with people, places and things.
- ✓ Linking with family to understand their wishes for their child.
- ✓ Strengthening the dispositions of learning within each child – courage and curiosity, trust and playfulness, perseverance, confidence and responsibility.
- ✓ Understanding and using children's love languages to make each child feel loved and appreciated.



THE LEARNING LINKS APPROACH TO CHILDCARE

We believe that Learning Links stands out from the rest through its commitment to three important educational priorities:

1. Learning through play
2. Keeping children emotionally healthy
3. Educating with a sustainable environment focus

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Play based learning supports children to develop confidence in their capabilities, work creatively and discover an endlessly new world. As children explore with curiosity the environment, and engage with it, they learn to understand people, places, events and things. They are gaining an increasing competence physically, socially and learning language, science and mathematical concepts in a meaningful way.



KEEPING CHILDREN EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY - THE 'LOVE LANGUAGES'

Children express and receive love in different ways — some through acts of service; others through affirming words; gifts, quality time or physical touch. By understanding your child's unique love language, we are able to develop a deep and strong individual relationship ensuring your child feels loved and cared for.



SUSTAINABILITY

Learning Links is committed to sustainable practices and is striving to be a zero waste organisation. We have a strong focus on reducing, reusing and recycling. Children have the opportunity to take part in gardening, potting, growing, harvesting, cooking and eating. We believe that the link between nature, food and wellbeing is vital so we aim to make these links as visible as possible. Forest sessions are included in our program providing opportunities for children to learn and grow outside the centre and connect with the natural world.



TIPS ON CHOOSING A CENTRE

Choosing an early childhood service is a big decision. You will want to know that you have made the right choice for your child. You will want to know they will be happy, settled and learning. Different early childhood services have different approaches to children's learning. The Ministry of Education has released a booklet on choosing early childhood education with information you may find useful which you can download - ECE Booklet:

<https://parents.education.govt.nz/assets/Parents/Documents/Early-Learning/ECE-Choices-Booklet.pdf>

Ask other parents or caregivers

Other parents often have first-hand experience and can be a great source of information. You could also research online, or ask other whanau members, friends and neighbours about their experiences.

We are happy to connect you with some parents in our centre if you have questions about their experience.

Make a short list based on what you need

Gather information about the centre you are considering, either by checking out their website or phoning them. Ask questions such as:

- ✓ **Do they have a space for your child?** Some centres do not have spaces available and you may have to go on a waiting list.
- ✓ **Location** - Are they close enough to home, work, study? Are they near the local primary school your child will attend?
- ✓ **Hours** - Are they open when you need them? What about school holidays and public holidays?
- ✓ **Style of care** - Do they offer what you want for your child? Fun, love, culture, values, good outdoor spaces, experiences and learning?
- ✓ **Cost** - Can you afford the fees? Remember, even with government subsidies like 20 Hours ECE, you may still have to pay fees. Check with each ECE service to find out.
- ✓ **Services offered** - Do they offer what you want? Nutritious meals, special dietary requirements, drinks, nappies, supplies, sunblock, vision checks, school visits, experiences etc. Check what's included in the fees.



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Go for some visits

It's important to visit the centre you are interested in, and get a good feel for the children, the adults, and the environment. Get in touch with them and arrange a visit. You can visit as many times as you like. When you go, look out for things like:

- ✓ How welcome do you feel?
- ✓ Are adults and children kind to and respectful of each other?
- ✓ Do the children seem content and absorbed in their play?
- ✓ What is available for children's play and learning?
- ✓ Do you and your child like the indoor and outdoor spaces?
- ✓ Will your child be loved and cared for?
- ✓ How welcome do they make your child feel?
- ✓ Does the environment look and feel clean and well maintained?

What is it like for the children?

When you visit a centre, pay attention to the children.

- ✓ Are they interacting with each other and are teachers interacting with the children?
- ✓ Is there plenty of equipment that suits their interests and abilities?
- ✓ Can they move freely between indoors and outdoors?
- ✓ Do they seem happy and are they taking part in activities?



WHAT WE OFFER:

At Learning Links, we appreciate how a quality child care setting helps to prepare children for school, and enables parents to work or study knowing their child is well cared for. With this in mind we offer:

- ✓ A welcoming environment for children and families.
- ✓ Opportunities for parents to become part of our community.
- ✓ A safe and nurturing place for children to play and grow, through experiences and opportunities that help children develop physical, social, emotional, and intellectual skills.
- ✓ Wholesome, healthy, homemade meals reviewed by registered paediatric dietitian. (We cater for special dietary requirements)*. Meals provided in Hamilton, Taupo and Te Awamutu.
- ✓ Forest sessions.
- ✓ A large nature based outdoor play area.
- ✓ Fun for children.
- ✓ Storypark an online portfolio which enables us to share with you and your extended family your child's learning.
- ✓ Nappies.
- ✓ Sunblock.
- ✓ A loving environment from new born to school age.
- ✓ WINZ Subsidies for eligible families.

*Infant formula and babies bottles to be provided by the families.





LEARNING LINKS CHILDCARE | CONTACT US

If Learning Links sounds like a good fit for you and your child, then we'd love to hear from you.

We can be contacted by:

Phone | 0800 690 920

Email | admin@learninglinkschildcare.co.nz

Website | www.learninglinkschildcare.co.nz

Facebook | search: Learning Links Childcare