

new shoots
CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Enrolment Pack

Welcome to

new shoots



Our Vision

At New Shoots Children's Centres, children and families are at the heart of everything we do.

As early childhood educators, we founded New Shoots with a clear purpose: to create beautiful, meaningful spaces where tamariki (children) and whānau (families) can truly thrive. We're driven by integrity and a deep connection to our local communities, always striving to make a positive impact and provide tamariki with a fun, inspiring place to grow and learn.

Each of our centres is designed by us, with every detail carefully considered to nurture imagination and play. No two New Shoots centres are the same. Through high-quality, environmentally conscious design and thoughtfully chosen, ethically sourced resources, we create environments that meet the needs of both tamariki and kaiako.

Our approach to learning is grounded in play-based theory and supported by a rich, research-informed curriculum developed here in Aotearoa. Every day, our passionate kaiako support tamariki and whānau with care, respect, and genuine connection.

We're always evolving, inspired by new ideas, ongoing research, and a shared commitment to giving children the very best start in life. We invite you to discover what makes New Shoots such a special place for your tamariki and whānau.

Michelle Pratt, Nikki Prendergast, and Kelly Lambert
Founders

A fun and exciting place to be

A place that feels right

Innovation based on new ideas and research

A positive impact

Local and community based



Our Curriculum

“Curriculum” can be a confusing word when your child is still in nappies or figuring out which shoe goes on which foot, but the truth is, Early childhood is about more than care; it is about laying the foundation for future learning through strong relationships, curiosity, and carefully planned experiences that build essential skills.

At New Shoots, our curriculum serves as the framework that guides our kaiako in supporting your child’s learning. And because decades of research have shown that play is the best way for young brains to develop, our curriculum is built around play.

Celebrating the magic of play

Play isn’t just something children do; it’s how they make sense of the world. It’s how they connect, express themselves, and discover who they are. And at New Shoots, it’s the thread that runs through our days.

Behind every playful moment is a clear purpose. Our kaiako plan experiences that strengthen language, problem-solving, and early literacy and numeracy through the joy of play.

From mixing mud potions to building block castles, play is full of purpose. These early experiences of imagination and exploration lay the foundation for lifelong skills such as resilience, empathy, and determination.

For more insight into the learning that happens at our centres, check out our blog.

A life-long love of learning starts here

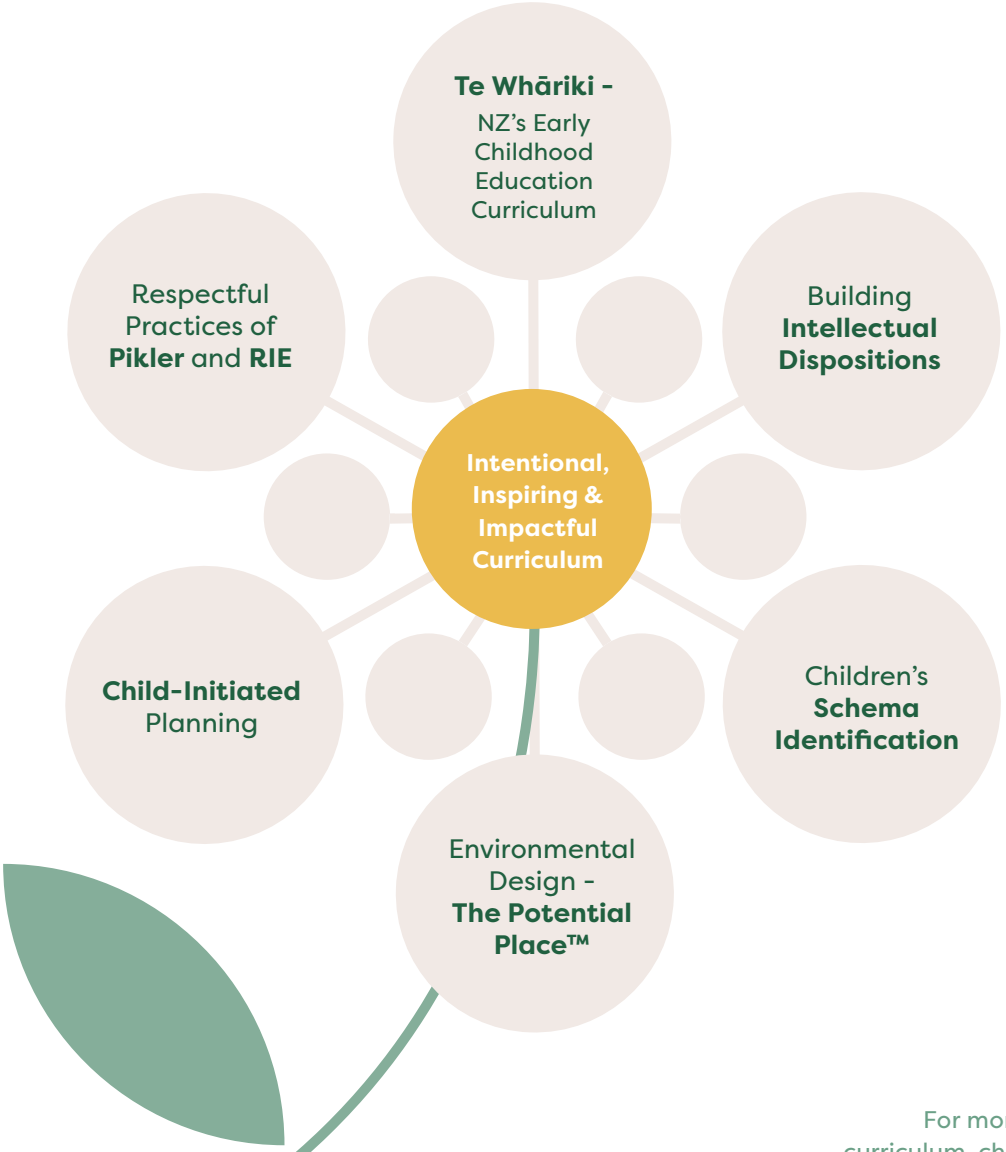
At New Shoots, we nurture curious, capable learners from their earliest days. Our curriculum is grounded in Te Whāriki, Aotearoa New Zealand’s early childhood education framework, and comes to life in our nature-rich environments, guided by skilled, caring kaiako.

As your tamariki grow, early literacy and numeracy are woven into storytelling, song, and exploration. We follow your child’s lead, and while “assessment” might sound like a big word for preschoolers, in early childhood education, it simply means paying close attention to what your child enjoys, how they’re developing, and how we can support them to keep learning with confidence.

Our curriculum nurtures the skills and dispositions that set children up for school and for life, including curiosity, independence, focus, and the ability to work and play alongside others.

Rooted in reasearch

Behind all the fun and play, a thoughtful mix of early childhood education research guides how we foster your child's learning and development. These educational theories form the basis of our curriculum:



For more details about our curriculum, check out our website





Our Environments

From the coastal sands of Pāpāmoa to the lush greenery of Greenhithe, each New Shoots centre is tailored to reflect its unique community and local surroundings. Our spaces are both beautiful and purposeful, designed to support focus, creativity, and a love of learning so tamariki are ready for each new stage of development.

Carefully curated, age-appropriate spaces

There are some things an early childhood centre can offer that homes can't, like rooms with everything at your child's level! With intuitive layouts and thoughtful details, our environments spark imagination and wonder.

Each environment is designed to build the foundations children need for school, blending creativity, focus, and a love of learning from their earliest years.

Beauty and balance

Stunningly spacious and richly resourced, our centres strike a gentle balance between beauty and functionality. Light-filled rooms, natural textures, and soothing colours create a sense of calm and comfort, helping tamariki feel confident to follow their curiosity.

> "Our goal is to create an environment that feels right for kaiako, tamariki, whānau, and the community. We draw inspiration from the natural world to create a peaceful and energising 'home away from home' to facilitate a thriving childhood."

MICHELLE PRATT
ONE OF OUR FOUNDERS



Children's needs and aspirations are at the heart of our decisions.

PURPOSEFULLY DESIGNED AND LOVINGLY RESTORED ECE SPACES

Created in collaboration with architects, spatial designers, engineers, landscape architects, and early childhood educators, each New Shoots centre is one of a kind. Every element — colour, form, shape, and material — is carefully chosen to create spaces that reflect the diverse cultures, languages, and identities of our whānau and wider communities.



OUTSTANDING OUTDOOR AREAS

At New Shoots, we believe in biophilic design: the philosophy that nature makes us feel better. Through plants, colour palettes, and organic materials, our indoor environments connect tamariki to the natural world, and they flow seamlessly into the lush outdoor areas beyond.



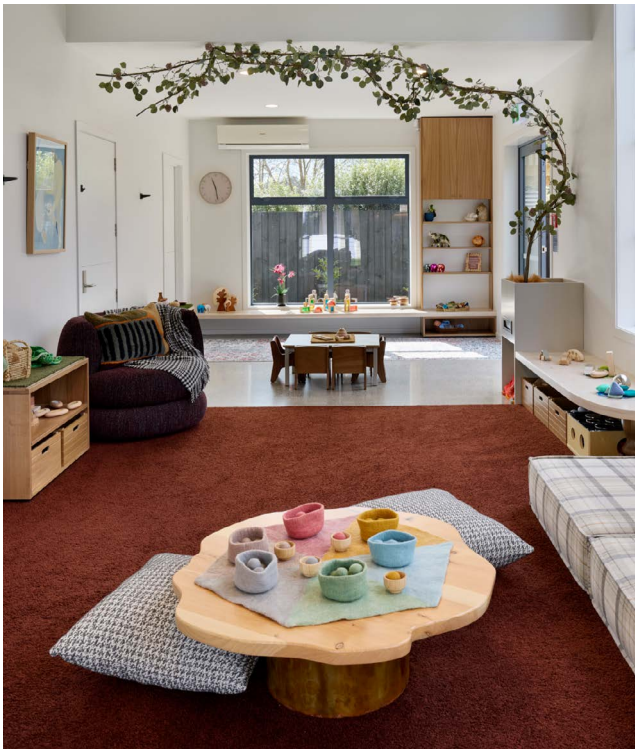
PASSIVE BUILDING DESIGN

Each centre is oriented to maximise natural daylight, reducing the need for artificial lighting. We also use passive ventilation methods, helping limit infection and reduce CO2 build-up.

RESPONSIBLE MATERIALS

All our building materials, furniture, and learning resources are chosen to limit our environmental impact and support your child's health and wellbeing. That includes using the lowest VOC (solvent) levels possible.





Nutrition

Walk through our doors and you might be greeted by the scent of freshly baked muffins or a curry simmering on the stove. Follow your nose and you'll find our talented on-site chef, preparing your child's morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea, made fresh each day.

At New Shoots, our kai (food) is simple, nutritious, and full of variety, because when tamariki are well fed, everything else falls into place.

Forget the daily lunchbox scramble

We've got you covered with fresh, balanced meals made for all kinds of eaters. Whatever is on today's menu, there's a mix of familiar favourites and new flavours to explore.

We stick to seasonal ingredients and, where we can, source local New Zealand produce. It's all about wholesome food that supports growing bodies and curious minds.

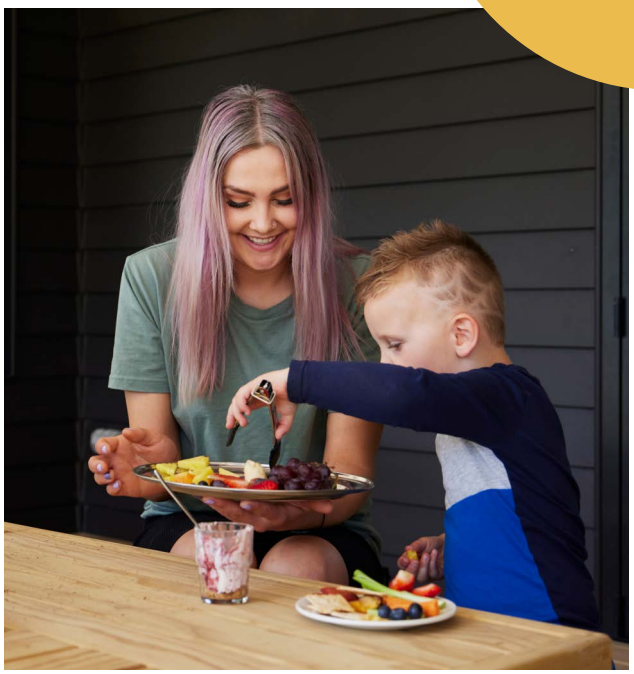


A nourishing, colourful menu

You might find yourself wishing we cooked your lunch, too! Our daily menus are created by experienced chefs and reviewed by a qualified nutritionist, so you can trust what's on your child's plate.

We avoid highly processed ingredients and keep refined sugar to a minimum. Yes, there are treats (think muffins or fruit loaf), but even those are packed with goodness.

Our chefs understand early childhood habits, and even picky eaters usually find something they love. If your tamariki have any allergies or dietary needs, please let your Centre Director know. We're happy to help.



Why do we provide kai?

We want your child to flourish, and we want to make life a little easier for you, too. Food served during the day can make up around a third of your child's daily intake. So even if breakfast was rushed or last night was a tough one, you can feel confident that they've had something good to fuel their day.

And it's not just about what they eat, it's how they eat too. Surrounded by their peers at child-sized tables, tamariki learn to slow down, stay seated, and enjoy kai together as part of the rhythm of the day.

Sample Menu 1

Morning Tea

Cheese Rolls
+ Seasonal Fresh Fruit

Water/Milk

Lunch

Chicken and Vege Curry
with Rice

Water

Afternoon Tea

Oatmeal Pancakes with
Berry Coulis
+ Seasonal Fresh Fruit

Water/Milk

Sample Menu 2

Morning Tea

Bircher Museli and Yogurt
+ Seasonal Fresh Fruit

Water/Milk

Lunch

Savoury Mince with
Baked Potato

Water

Afternoon Tea

Date and Orange Muffins
+ Seasonal Fresh Fruit

Water/Milk

Sustainability

We want to help shape a strong future for your tamariki, and a big part of that is caring for the world they'll grow up in. Sustainability is woven into everything we do at New Shoots, from our curriculum to our cleaning products, our toys and resources to our freshly cooked meals.

We work with each centre's local environment to create meaningful, hands-on experiences with nature. Because when tamariki connect with the land, they grow into confident, capable kaitiaki (guardians) of the natural world.

Nurture through nature

Whether they're digging dirt or picking fruit, tamariki come alive when they're immersed in the natural world. While every centre is unique, here are some of the nature-based initiatives you might find:

- Worm farms that turn food scraps into fertiliser for our whānau gardens
- Kura ngahere (bush kindy), giving tamariki time to explore, connect with, and learn from the land
- Enviroschools where your tamariki learn how to take action in their communities.
- On-site Gardens and/or Orchards that grow fresh fruit and vegetables, used in daily meals or sent home for whānau to enjoy!



Curated with care

Safe for tamariki, gentle on the planet is our philosophy for every item we welcome into the centre. You'll find cots and equipment free from BPA, phthalates, and lead; toys made from natural fibres and safe, plant-based dyes; materials like wood, stone, and clay; and second-hand treasures that spark creativity while reducing waste.



Everyday actions, long term impact

Small, consistent choices make a big impact over time. That's why we:

- Use eco-friendly cleaning products that are safe for tamariki and the planet
- Partner with leading New Zealand waste companies to recycle as much as possible
- Source staff uniforms from a local, ethical supplier



“The earth has music for those who listen”

- GEORGE SANTAYANA



Whānau Support Kaiako

The role of your kaiako

You and your child will be matched with a Whānau Support Kaiako. Their role is to build a close, trusting relationship with your whānau to enable your child to connect with their new environment. This bond is built on consistency, continuity, care, safety, and trust, and will be supported by all members of our team. You will also have a back-up kaiako for when your Whānau Support Kaiako is away.

Your Whānau Support Kaiako is the secure base from which your tamariki can explore. They'll answer any questions you have about your child's day and ensure you're comfortable with the love and care your child receives at New Shoots.





"Teachers encourage minds to think, hands to create & hearts to love"

- ABBIE C

Why we do this

At New Shoots, we know that strong relationships are the foundation for every child's learning and wellbeing. Starting at a new centre can be a big step, and having one special kaiako who truly knows your child helps them feel secure, understood, and ready to explore.

This approach supports emotional safety and confidence, allowing tamariki to build meaningful connections with others and engage deeply in play and learning. It also gives parents and whānau peace of mind, knowing there is someone who understands their child's routines, interests, and unique way of being.



Settling your Child



A child's first day in a new environment is a big step and while some tamariki embark with confidence, others take more time and need extra support.

We recommend a settling-in period with whānau present to help your child adapt happily to their new surroundings. We suggest at least three visits before their first booked day. The length of time and number of visits is different for every child.

There's no rush; we want to make sure you and your tamariki are confident in your chosen centre and allow time for bonding with your kaiako. We will work alongside you to meet the needs of your tamariki and establish a strong line of communication.



Ways to help your tamariki settle at New Shoots:

- Discuss New Shoots with your tamariki and visit multiple times before their first day so they know what to expect.
- It is important to say goodbye to them. If you suddenly disappear, they may become more anxious about staying as they have not been told you will return.
- When settling let them take a special toy or possession if it will help them feel more comfortable.
- Spend quality time with your child after picking them up. Ask them what they did and how they felt.
- Provide your Whānau Support Kaiako with your child's specific needs, including routines and moods.
- Call us as often as you need to. They'll soon be engaged in activities and feeling quite at home.

Our Locations

AUCKLAND

Coatesville
302 Coatesville Riverhead Hwy,
Coatesville, 0793
+64 9 304 0030
coatesville@newshoots.co.nz

Pakuranga
149 Cascades Road,
Pakuranga Heights, Auckland, 2010
+64 9 281 8218
pakuranga@newshoots.co.nz

Sunnynook
20 Tonkin Drive,
Sunnynook, Auckland, 0620
+64 9 410 9605
sunnynook@newshoots.co.nz

Matakana
1151 Leigh Road, Matakana Country Park, Matakana 0985
+64 9 410 9605
matakana@newshoots.co.nz

OPENING MARCH 2026

Greenhithe
31 Chester Avenue,
Greenhithe, Auckland, 0632
+64 9 307 0005
greenhithe@newshoots.co.nz

Ramarama
10 Talus Drive,
Ramarama, 2579
+64 9 294 8510
ramarama@newshoots.co.nz

Miniland
11 Sunnyview Road,
Greenhithe, Auckland 0632
+64 9 218 9297
miniland@newshoots.co.nz

Westgate
1 Kawakawa Place,
Whenuapai, Auckland, 0814
+64 9 869 3977
westgate@newshoots.co.nz

Hillcrest
7 Argus Place,
Hillcrest, Auckland, 0627
+64 9 307 0034
hillcrest@newshoots.co.nz

Whenuapai
1-9 Maramara Rd,
Whenuapai, Auckland, 0618
+64 9 869 6050
whenuapai@newshoots.co.nz

Hobsonville
102 Hobsonville Road,
Hobsonville, Auckland, 0618
+64 9 869 3997
hobsonville@newshoots.co.nz

Rosedale
100a Rosedale Road,
Rosedale, Auckland, 0632
+64 9 320 3479
rosedale@newshoots.co.nz

OPENING FEB 2026

NORTHLAND

Kerikeri
2 Aranga Road,
Kerikeri, 0230
+64 9 401 6085
kerikeri@newshoots.co.nz

WAIKATO

Hamilton
109-117 Tristram Street,
Hamilton Central, 3204
+64 7 859 3377
hamilton@newshoots.co.nz

Rotokauri
439 Rotokauri Road,
Hamilton, 3289
+64 9 320 3479
rotokauri @newshoots.co.nz

OPENING MID 2026

Matamata
6 Peria Road,
Matamata, 3400
+64 7 444 3040
matamata@newshoots.co.nz

BAY OF PLENTY

Bayfair
1E Salt Avenue,
Mount Maunganui, 3116
+64 7 575 9351
bayfair@newshoots.co.nz

Pāpāmoa
5-7 Twin Oak Avenue,
Pāpāmoa Beach, Pāpāmoa, 3118
+64 7 542 4050
papamoa@newshoots.co.nz

Sandhurst
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Tauranga
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tauranga@newshoots.co.nz

Tauriko
512 Cambridge Road,
Tauriko, Tauranga, 3112
+64 9 320 3479
tauriko@newshoots.co.nz

The Lakes
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Pyes Pa, Tauranga, 3173
+64 7 543 1734
thelakes@newshoots.co.nz

Where children and families grow together

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www.newshoots.co.nz

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