**CAS Early Learning Centre**

**Philosophy Rapunga whakaaro**

***Our Philosophy Statement expresses values and beliefs held and reflects what we believe is important for children’s learning.***

We recognise Tangata Whenua and that our bicultural heritage is founded in Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi) and we believe all children have the right to knowledge and understanding of the dual cultural heritage of Aotearoa/New Zealand and an understanding of Māori values and beliefs.

We will respect the languages, music, stories, and aspirations of each child’s family and community.

We recognise the important role of Whānau Tangata (family and community) and the importance of developing respectful, reciprocal relationships with tamariki and families. We value and respect the unique knowledge and contributions of whānau in the decision making process around their child’s care and education.

Our children, families/ whānau and the teaching team form a warm, rich and diverse community of learners.

We will provide an environment that is inclusive of all families/whanau and their tamariki (children). In this environment tamariki (children) will take an ***aro mai*** (interest in), be ***whakauru*** (involved in), persist with ***mea uaua*** (difficulty), ***te taki (***the challenge)*and* ***kunukumu*** *(uncertainty), and express their* ***āhua whakaaro*** (point of view).

Our programme is based upon ***Te Whāriki: He whāriki mātauranga mō ngā mokopuna o Aotearoa (the New Zealand early childhood curriculum***) which emphasis the development of knowledge, skills, attitudes, and dispositions that support lifelong learning.

We believe that by promoting and supporting each child’s learning dispositions

***Whakawhirinaki me Hangareka*** (Trust and Playfulness)

***Māiatanga*** (confidence)

***Māia mea* *whakamatemate*** (Courage and Curiosity)

***Hiringa*** (perseverance)

***Kawenga*** (responsibility)

we will ensure tamariki (children) feel valued and have independence for later learning and development.

Through learning stories, observation and discussion, teachers enhance opportunities to build on children’s learning dispositions and working theories.

We will provide a facilitating environment that includes a wide range of resources and opportunities for children to act on their own ideas and develop knowledge and skills so that they can make decisions.

The outdoor environment and outdoor play are essential to the development of a healthy body, mind and spirit. Our outside environment is a special feature and children are encouraged and supported to play outside, at any time, in most weathers.

Children are encouraged to be self-motivated learners and creative thinkers while building a foundation for life-long learning.

Children are valued as active learners who choose, plan, and meet challenges through their play.

We believe that the skills for getting along with others, in all sorts of situations, will be the most valuable skills your child can learn with us.

***Our learning environment is shaped by the values of***

**Tuakana Teina - The expert shares with the learner**

*Children can be both an expert and a learner.*

*Children can share their knowledge*

*Children can take on different roles in different circumstances.*

**Ako - Learning together**

*Children being confident to share their ideas with others*

*Children can share their knowledge through words and actions*

*Children are a learner and a teacher*

*Teachers believe in children and allow me time to problem solve*

*Teachers know they have a lot to learn from children*

**Manaakitanga - Kindness and caring**

*Children feel welcomed*

*Whānau are welcomed and included*

*Children are respected and valued*

*Children will show kindness towards others and it will be shown to them*

*Children respect their environment*

*Children treat others fairly and include others in play.*