

## PATHWAYS TO SCHOOL POLICY

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### Purpose:

At Treetops ELC we appreciate that primary school learning environments are quite different to ECE. We aim to empower children with a love of learning to make the transition from Treetops to primary school as smooth as possible. We are informed by current research across the education sector, including; Nathan Wallis' brain development, Reggio Emilia philosophy, Self-regulation and our early childhood document, Te Whāriki.

*“Childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, write and count. It is a small window of time to learn and develop at the pace that is right for each individual child. Earlier is not better”*

Magda Gerber

### Procedures:

- Experiences and provocations which are developmentally appropriate and engaging are offered, to support their critical thinking and negotiation skills to work collaboratively with others.
- Prior to attending primary school we support;
  - Self-regulation
  - Independence and self help skills
  - Social competence - managing conflict
  - Problem solving skills
  - Self-expression
  - Whilst fostering respect, empathy and self-esteem.
- We seek whanau aspirations for their children to work in partnership to create a smooth transition.
- We regularly review, in partnership with whanau and New Entrant teachers, the foundation skills that will support your child for a successful transition to school.
- Our teachers recognise the foundation skills that are needed for a successful transition to school and these are woven into our curriculum. Teachers share this learning throughout their documentation.
- We support children to develop healthy eating habits. Lunch box day is an aspect of our program where your child enjoys a packed lunch at Treetops so that they can prepare their food, and gain the necessary skills to manage this exciting time.
- Teachers discuss with children the differences between Treetops and primary schools. Books, photographs and pictures are used to give children some insight into what to expect.
- Our teachers reach out to our local primary schools and invite New Entrant teachers to visit us. We encourage communication between school and center to build a shared understanding of what transition to school looks like, and we regularly meet with New Entrant teachers within our community to share our expectations and aspirations.
- We encourage children to share their portfolios with their new teacher learning journey from Treetops.
- Teachers will share with families any information we have accessed about our local primary schools. We will hold an annual transition to school meeting for whānau.
- Children are encouraged to manage their own belongings and school bags in preparation for attending primary school.
- Children are encouraged to bring and share photographs of their school visits with the centre when possible.
- We support whanau in encouraging their children to engage in learning experiences at home.