

**Do you wish
to become
a Bear Park
Educator?**



...and put your
training to work?



Philosophy

Bear Park believes in the individual child and the rights of that child, and in doing so we base our philosophy on the New Zealand Early Childhood Curriculum Te Whaariki, with a strong inspirational influence from the Educational Philosophy of Reggio Emilia in Italy.

The "REGGIO" Approach

In line with our commitment to always provide the best in early childhood education and to be innovative and open to change, we have actively adopted the "Reggio" approach within our centres.



The "Reggio" approach stems from a highly innovative and successful programme developed in the town of Reggio Emilia in Italy following the end of the war in 1945. This approach to early childhood education has attracted international attention over the last decade and has received numerous international awards celebrating its success.



Bear Park's commitment to address the holistic child by offering what is proven internationally as a highly successful integrated educational approach places us at the forefront of early childhood education in New Zealand.

Some of the principal components of the "Reggio" approach are as follows:

The Image of Child

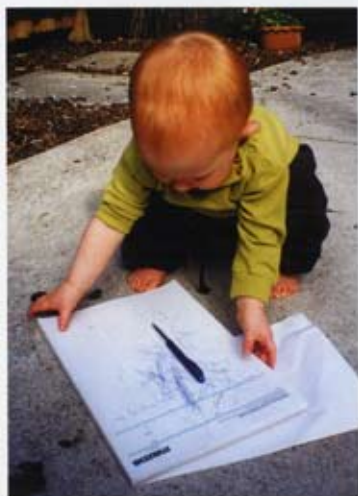
- ☀ Unique free spirited individuals.
- ☀ Participating in Meaningful Relationships.
- ☀ Open and receptive to differences.
- ☀ Interactive Learners and Constructors of Knowledge.
- ☀ Spontaneous contributors and expressive communicators.
- ☀ Active, curious explorers fascinated by their world.

Teachers

Teachers contribute to the learning process. They help to support and develop this by valuing and respecting the child's participation.

The Teachers role is... to be lifelong learners and learn alongside the child... be a complementary resource for the child... be aware of each child's sense of time and personal

rhythm...to encourage reciprocity, exchange and dialogue... to be an attentive listener and observer... and to provoke occasions of discovery.



Documentation

Documentation is a representation of the child's thinking and emphasises the 'process' of learning.



Documentation allows... parents to be aware of their child's experiences and therefore encouraging their participation in the programme... teachers to evaluate their own work thereby promoting professional development & growth... children to be aware that their efforts are valued... children to be able to revisit past experiences therefore building onto their prior knowledge... and it serves as a basis for planning the next steps in the exploration of an investigation.



A Bit About Bear Park

As a staff member, you can expect allocated non-contact time each week for programme planning and documentation in your teaching team. This gives you time for reflection, discussion, support and collaboration of your ideas.

We support opportunities for your personal professional growth and development and provide assistance in gaining your teacher's registration.

Your efforts and performance are recognised through our staff incentive scheme. We provide professional development both within Bear Park and externally and we strongly encourage and financially support our staff to participate. Some of this professional development takes place overseas.

We are looking for enthusiastic, innovative professional educators who want to be part of a collaborative Centre team. If you're keen on being an active contributor in an energetic environment where people listen to what you have to say, Bear Park could well be the place for you.



No way. The hundred is there.

Loris Malaguzzi.
Translated by Lella Gandini.

The child
is made of one hundred.

The child has
a hundred languages
a hundred hands
a hundred thoughts
a hundred ways of thinking
of playing, of speaking
A hundred always a hundred
ways of listening
of marveling of loving
a hundred joys
for singing and understanding
a hundred worlds
to discover
a hundred worlds
to invent
a hundred worlds
to dream.

The child has
a hundred languages
(and a hundred hundred hundred more)
but they steal ninety-nine.
The school and the culture
separate the head from the body.

They tell the child:
to think without hands
to do without head
to listen and not to speak
to understand without joy
to love and to marvel
only at Easter and Christmas.
They tell the child:
to discover the world already there
and of the hundred
they steal ninety-nine.
they tell the child:
that work and play
reality and fantasy
science and imagination
sky and earth
reason and dream
are things
that do not belong together

And thus they tell the child
that the hundred is not there.
The child says:
No way, the hundred is there.



Bear Park Limited

Phone: 0800 232 772 / 021 660 555

s.stevely-cole@clear.net.nz

Web: www.bearpark.co.nz