

Please
Visit Us!

中文老师

Shaping the future ...together

The Ole Schoolhouse offers a creative and homely learning environment within a heritage setting. Our educational philosophy draws on current international research and best practice. We develop our curriculum through observation of children's interests with the aim to enhance opportunities for social development and to foster a love of learning.

Our Philosophy

We believe that partnership and communication between whānau and our centre staff is essential to promote optimal growth and development of all children in our care. This is because every child is unique in terms of life experience, developmental readiness, and cultural heritage.

Our aim is to provide a safe, nurturing, stimulating learning environment that accommodates and embraces difference and diversity. Our goal is to promote spiritual, physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development for each individual child.

We believe in the integration of learning and play, as children learn best by 'doing'. We strive to balance teacher-led and child-initiated activities, providing the foundation of a developmentally appropriate early childhood programme. Given opportunities to explore the world around them, young children become active and involved learners. The Ole Schoolhouse is a place where they can be successful and discover that learning is fun.

With this foundation, children will develop strong learning dispositions and become curious, well-rounded learners, able to make independent choices and act responsibly.

We invite you to join our community

Children learn best when they are happy and secure. Our early learning centre environment is safe and nurturing. We provide the best in early childhood education through our programmes:

- reading readiness
- science and discovery activities
- mathematics
- creative arts and crafts
- storytime
- music and movement
- dramatic play
- waterplay and sandplay
- outdoor play
- community outings



Keeping you in the Loop

Our weekly newsletter, **NEWS WEEK**, gives news and information of interest to parents and families. There are regular articles about child development, nutrition, parenting and problem solving along with many other issues relevant to supporting good parenting.

Every child's progress is recorded in their individual learning journal. This is an online resource that gives caregivers secure access to stories, photos and comments about their child's learning.

Check us out!

You can read our independent ERO review (February 2011) at: www.ero.govt.nz or see us more informally on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/oleschoolhouse



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The Ole Schoolhouse Early Childhood Centre

Welcome to our place

The Ole Schoolhouse is a place where children up to the age of six and their parents/ caregivers can share in programs and activities.

We bring together in one location early learning and information about children's services and programmes in the community. If you have questions about your child's development, or want to know how to obtain information or services for your child aged birth to six years in Rotorua, please call or email us.



Babies (from 3 to 18 months)

We nurture a caring and stimulating environment for babies. Using movement, sound, colour and touch babies are encouraged to explore, develop and above all, enjoy their 'second home'. Early communication is encouraged through the effective use of baby sign language.

We strive to mirror the feeding habits, nappy change and sleep routines used at home. This is made possible through regular contact with key carers. Babies enjoy a dedicated 'baby outdoor area', home-made healthy nursery food and bottle feeds provided by dedicated baby staff. The Ole Schoolhouse is a breast-feeding friendly centre.



The Ole Schoolhouse

- Promoting early learning
- Fostering social development
- Encouraging individual growth
- Nurturing relationships
- Partnering with parents, caregivers and the community



Toddlers (from 18 to 36 months)

Every activity in the toddler area is considered a learning opportunity. Activities vary hugely and are above all fun and stimulating. Toddlers are encouraged to enjoy early maths concepts, develop their language skills, discover creative play and learn to relax at mat time. Staff work closely with families to help with potty training and to ensure that sleep/rest routines reflect those at home. Toddlers have the advantage of regular interaction with older children as well as their peers. A teacher is dedicated to the transition of toddlers to the preschool area and two and three year-olds share in classes and activities dedicated to their needs.

Preschool (from 3 to 5 years)

A key aim within the preschool area is to ensure that children are ready for mainstream school. Our structured programme of activities is rich and varied, embracing early literacy and numeracy skills and fostering a love of learning and exploration. Four year-olds enjoy transition to school classes and other activities designed specially for them. We organise regular excursions into the community along with visits to the theatre, museum and other local cultural organisations. At the Ole Schoolhouse we strive to build confident and independent learners who draw on a fundamental sense of well-being and belonging. This is rooted in principles of social justice and the rights of the child.



All our meals are healthy and wholesome and are included in our fees. We use organic ingredients where possible and avoid artificial colours, flavours and preservatives where practical. All food is freshly prepared in our own kitchen and we can adapt menus to include any child's special dietary needs, including gluten, lactose and other allergies.

Mealtimes at The Ole Schoolhouse are encouraged to be social occasions. Our teachers sit with the children to encourage social table manners.

