

# CLOVERLEA SCHOOL

# PLAY-BASED LEARNING



Play is the valued mode of learning for our LEGENDs transitioning to kura. We allow opportunities for our LEGENDs to explore, experiment, discover and solve problems in imaginative and playful ways. Play-based learning supports mana-enhancing experiences through offering choice. Engagement is high as our LEGENDs challenge themselves through their interests and strengths. Play-based learning supports their physical, social, emotional and cognitive needs. Te Reo Matatini (Literacy) and Pangarau (Maths) workshops happen while learners are involved in play.

## IT IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE:

Play based learning creates the ideal transition from the early childhood environments – allowing Kaiako to build on the foundations that have been established through Te Whaariki.

Play supports learning to be authentic and connected through a Te Ao Māori lens where values that are important in the LEGEND's life are supported. Tikanga practices are taught in purposeful and meaningful ways that foster high engagement. Connections to Te Reo Matatini and Pāngarau are made through play as LEGENDs apply and practice these emerging skills.

Te Reo Matatini and Pāngarau concepts are promoted through the provocations that Kaiako organise to extend learning further. Play based learning promotes learner agency as LEGENDs are making choices about their learning and who they work with.

## CURRICULUM LINKS:

Play-based learning honors the vision of the New Zealand Curriculum to develop confident, connected, actively involved, lifelong learners. It provides the opportunity to extend the learning foundations that have been taught prior to coming to kura in the Te Whaariki Curriculum.

Play-based learning offers an inclusive, bicultural curriculum. It also involves ensuring our environments are mana-enhancing, spaces, where barriers to participation are removed.

Play-based learning allows for programmes to easily be differentiated depending on developmental needs and interests.

Documenting curriculum links is regularly done through mind-mapped planning and photographs that show how learning is extended and promoted through a range of curriculum areas & our LEGEND values.

## WHĀNAUNGATANGA:

Learning through play is centred around building whānaungatanga (relationships).

Kaiako support LEGENDs to create connections through Ako. Play can help children build trust and a sense of self-esteem, and regulate emotions. It teaches positive social skills and encourage positive interactions using both Te Reo Māori and English. Conversations are fostered and thinking is scaffolded.

LEGENDs are encouraged to make their own choices and make connections with their own culture while immersed in play. These conversations guide Kaiako in the next teaching steps and are shared with whānau via seesaw.

## LINKS TO OUR LEGEND VALUES:

Play based learning is a means to which ākonga learn the LEGEND values (which have direct links to the NZ curriculum key competencies). Through play our LEGENDs learn how to show Ārahi (Lead), Kairangi (Excellence), Nahanaha (or Organised), Manawaroa (Resilient), Kotahitanga (Inclusive) and Rae Pakari (Determination). These values are explicitly taught through our PB4L goals/lessons, social and emotional messages explored through pukapuka (books) and at the end of our play sessions where LEGEND is celebrated.

## RESEARCH & EVIDENCE:

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/tyc/aug2018/talking-parents-about-play-and-learning>  
<https://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Curriculum-resources/NZC-Online-blog/Learning-through-play-What-s-it-all-about>  
<https://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Curriculum-resources/NZC-Online-blog/NZC-and-Te-Whariki-Part-1>  
<https://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Curriculum-resources/NZC-Online-blog/NZC-and-Te-Whariki-Part-2>  
<https://educationcentral.co.nz/play-misunderstood-the-divide-between-primary-classroom/>

## ENACTING TE TIRITI O WAITANGI:

Play based learning environments honour Te Tiriti through developing ideas about self determination, mana and the taonga of Aotearoa.

Through a play based approach tamariki learn about the importance of the relationships between the language and culture contexts in the classroom environment. Te reo Maori is used in the environment to introduce the learners to meaningful and purposeful experiences. This is honouring Article 2 because LEGENDs feel like they belong and we are looking after te reo Māori as a taonga.

**Ārahi, Kairangi, Nahanaha, Manawaroa, Kotahitanga, Rae Pakari**

**LEAD, EXCELLENCE, ORGANISED, RESILIENCE, INCLUSIVE, DETERMINED**