



## **Early Childhood Centre/Playcentre/Kindergarten**

### **Partnership Agreement**

The Champion Centre is a strong advocate of inclusion in early childhood education and care settings and is delighted that one or more of our families/whānau have opted to attend your Early Childhood Centre. We would like to build a strong partnership with you based on openness, clear communication and respect. To this end we would like to invite you to sign up to our partnership agreement to help ensure the best inclusive care and education experience for every child.

#### **Definition of an inclusive education and care environment**

Inclusive education and care is based on the principle that all people are equal and should be respected and valued, as an issue of basic human rights. Inclusive education and care involves supporting all people to participate in the cultures, curricula and communities of their local setting. Barriers to learning and participation for everyone, irrespective of their ethnicity, culture, disability or any other factor, are actively reduced so that they feel a sense of belonging and community in their educational and care contexts.

#### **Commitment to inclusive education (see <http://www.ieag.org.nz/>)**

The Champion Centre is committed to supporting children to learn in inclusive early childhood settings and will:

- Include your staff in IP planning and implementation for children who also attend the Champion Centre's early intervention programmes.
- Employ and pay an Early Intervention Educator (EIE/ESW) to support children a minimum of 3 hours per week during school terms, as needed.
- Help your centre staff to support each child to attend without an EIE to the extent possible.
- Ensure that all EIEs are early childhood or equivalent trained (e.g., they hold a Playcentre or ECE diploma, or, in some cases, are registered teachers). (N.B. due to staff requirements there may be delays in appointing an EIE/ESW immediately after a child turns three.)
- Undertake to understand the developmental sensory and neurological factors that underlie children's responses.
- Ensure that all EIEs work collaboratively with you and respect your centre's policies, provided these policies support inclusion.
- Ensure that our practices respect the Treaty of Waitangi and foster success for children of all backgrounds.

- Provide specific specialist (e.g. speech and language therapist, early intervention teacher, psychologist, occupational therapist, physiotherapist) support and advice to your Centre staff as needed.
- Work collaboratively with you and welcome additional information from ECC staff to support each child's transition to school.

For their part, the ECC agrees to:

- Facilitate good quality curriculum and interactions
- Model and promote behaviours which are inclusive and respectful of difference
- Provide resources to support each child's needs
- Show respect to children and recognise the challenges involved in learning in a social environment
- Ensure that your practices respect the Treaty of Waitangi and foster success for children of all backgrounds.
- Involve children in decisions about their participation and activities
- Provide sensitive and informed guidance, interventions and support
- Be responsive, reciprocal, positive and encouraging
- Implement strategies that include children
- Display Centre rules and discuss them with children and parents
- Undertake to understand the developmental sensory and neurological factors that underlie children's responses.
- Keep parents and caregivers informed of any issues as they arise
- Implement child protection policies and practices in accordance with the Vulnerable Children Act 2014.

The ECC also agrees to inform the Champion Centre if it feels unable to deliver on any aspect of this agreement and/or where it requires further support in order to deliver on this agreement.

ECC staff are strongly encouraged to participate in scheduled programme reviews of children at the Champion Centre; and are welcome to visit children when they are attending the Champion Centre (with prior consultation) at any time.

This agreement is between The Christchurch Early Intervention Trust/The Champion Centre and: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Together these entities are committed to providing an inclusive educational environment for children who are clients of the Champion Centre.

Signed for The Champion Centre:

Signed for the ECC:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_