**Te Tiriti o Waitangi Policy**

**Rationale**

To protect, participate, and partner with tamariki and whānau as part of our learning environment to uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi as Aotearoa New Zealand’s founding document.

**Objective**

To acknowledge and reflect the unique place of Māori as tangata whenua. Tamariki are given the opportunity to develop knowledge and an understanding of the cultural heritages of both parties to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. To use the bicultural framework of Te Whāriki to guide the learning and development of tamariki in our environment.

**Policy**

Country Kidz values Te Tiriti o Waitangi as Aotearoa New Zealand’s founding document. This agreement formed the partnership for which Māori and Pākehā would build relationships from. A significant part of this agreement was the commitment to living together in a spirit of partnership ensuring a level of participation and protection. Te Whāriki provides a bicultural early childhood learning framework that aims to provide equitable outcomes for all through culturally responsive environments that support development. Tamariki, whānau, and kaiako will contribute to a place-based curriculum that honours protection, participation, and partnership through the meaningful incorporation of Mātauranga Māori.

Country Kidz works with whānau, caregivers, and our local community to design and implement a strategy for learning which supports mana whenua, reflects community priorities, and supports individual tamariki in their learning pathway. Country Kidz will develop authentic, responsive, and reciprocal relationships with whānau to ensure the aspirations and needs of tamariki are appropriate and sustain their identity, language, and culture.

Country Kidz acknowledges that Aotearoa New Zealand is increasingly multi-cultural and like Te Tiriti, we are inclusive of all immigrants by valuing and supporting the different cultures represented in our learning environment. Connections between the wider world of our tamariki will be actively sort through authentic relationships with whānau so home languages and cultural identity of all tamariki are nurtured and supported.

*Aligns with:*

*Licensing criteria for centre-based ECE services 2008, amended January, 2022*

*Human Rights Act 1993 (amendment 2001)*

*Te Whāriki – He whāriki mātauranga mō ngā mokopuna o Aotearoa*

*Country Kidz Human Resource Management Policy*

*Country Kidz Human Rights Policy*

*Country Kidz Excursion Policy*

*Country Kidz Induction Procedures*

*Country Kidz Strategic Plan 2022-25*

*Statement of National Education and Learning Priorities*

*Our code, our standards – Code of professional responsibility and standards for the Teaching Profession*

**Review**

Review when there is a significant change to legislature or as part of the annual management plan.

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| **Authorised:** |  |
| **Date:** | December 2022 |
| **Next Review:** | Add to Annual Management Plan for December, 2023 not withstanding a change in legislation or criteria |