**Parental Involvement Policy**

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**Rationale**

To ensure a clear and structured approach for whānau to be involved in the planning and operations of Country Kidz and to provide them with accessible information regarding our curriculum, health and safety protocols, financials, strategic direction, philosophy, and vision.

**Objective**

Country Kidz highly values the contribution and involvement of whānau in their child’s education and care. We strive to ensure that whānau are informed about how to access relevant information concerning their child, the operations, and the strategic and financial direction of Country Kidz. Additionally, we aim to keep whānau updated on planned reviews and internal evaluations for consultation purposes.

**Policy**

A significant indicator of quality in early childhood education is the degree to which whānau and caregivers are involved in their child’s education and care. Country Kidz commits to informing, consulting, and involving parents and whānau in planning, operations, and involvement by:

* Providing all parents with an enrolment pack and, where possible, a face-to-face discussion about Country Kidz. This discussion will include the fee structure, programme philosophy, how to access information on their child’s progress, positive guidance, nutritional guidance, programme structures, and location of the Centre’s ERO report, policies, and other information. Financial information regarding our budgets, funding, and expenditure, as well as opportunities for involvement in the review and evaluation of Country Kidz services and delivery, will also be covered.
* Inducting tamariki and whānau through three compulsory transitional visits and building authentic relationships during this time as a stepping stone to meaningful engagement.
* Maintaining a noticeboard, Home app, Facebook Whānau Page, and email communication for whānau that includes our policies, outings, and practices.
* Circulating a monthly newsletter to parents with updates about changes to policies such as our fee structure, parenting information, upcoming activities, and any operational changes.
* Being available for informal conversations during arrival and departure times.
* Being available for private meetings with whānau upon request.
* Establishing a welcoming environment and encouraging whānau to spend time with their tamariki at Country Kidz.
* Encouraging the contribution of home stories, pictures, and photos to tamariki portfolios and on the Playground and the parental app, Xplor Home.
* Encouraging participation in our programmes, especially where parents have particular skills such as music or craft, or are able to assist during excursions.
* Holding occasional social or educational evenings for whānau.
* Consulting parents on significant policy changes and their child’s interests, urges, aspirations, and preferences.
* Utilising a noticeboard, newsletters, email, Facebook, and Home app engagement platforms to ensure whānau are informed and have the opportunity to participate in planning, assessment, reviews, and receive updates on policies, procedures, and operational practices.
* Providing survey opportunities to gauge whānau feedback to inform service planning, assessment, and general community requirements and satisfaction levels as part of Country Kidz evaluation processes.

**Confidentiality**

Confidentiality will be maintained and respected at all times with regards to tamariki and whānau, unless this jeopardises our requirements under the Children’s Act, 2014. Information discussed with whānau will remain confidential and will not be shared outside of those discussions. This includes information gathered about tamariki through enrolment, observation, assessment, and portfolio books. Tamariki information and records are considered the property of the child’s guardians and will be accessible to whānau at all times.

*Aligns with:*

*Licensing criteria for centre-based ECE services 2022 (HS31)*

*Education and Training Act (2020)*

*Education (Early Childhood Education) Regulations 2008*

*Children’s Act 2014*

*Country Kidz Philosophy*

*Country Kidz Vision*

*Country Kidz Strategic Plan 2022-25*

*Country Kidz Positive Guidance Policy*

*Country Kidz Financial Policy*

*Country Kidz Fees Policy*

*Country Kidz Privacy Policy*

**Review**

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

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| **Authorised:** |  |
| **Date:** | May, 2024 |
| **Next Review:** | Add to Annual Management Plan for June, 2025 not withstanding a change in legislation or criteria |