



Summerfield Prospectus



Contents

Welcome to Summerfield.....	3
What matters to us.....	4
Our values.....	4
Your child is unique, Summerfield is too.....	5
Summerfield’s 35 year history speaks for itself.....	6
The first five years are the most important.....	7
Learning comes from many opportunities	8
Healthy eating habits start young.....	9
You eat with your eyes as well as your mouth	10
What you need to know – the finer details	11
Daily routines	12
A sense of community unites people	13
We’ll help you and your child settle in	14
Choosing the right centre for you and your family	15



Welcome to Summerfield

With a strong vision and an abundance of determination, Mary-Rose established Summerfield in 1987. She was an industry pioneer and committed to creating a centre that prioritised children and their families and accepted nothing less than excellence. The values she built Summerfield on continue to remain at the heart of our centre today, form the values of our philosophy and is an ethos held by all involved with Summerfield.

Being true to herself, Mary-Rose is committed to this stand-alone centre and wants nothing more than to provide a place that cares about children, their families and staff.

When you're next in, pop in and say hello to Mary-Rose. If she's not in the office, she won't be far away, and she always loves to get to know the children and families.



What matters to us?

You do. Our children, families, staff. You are the very essence of who we are, our Summerfield family

Our vision:

- Our vision is to empower our people to be rich in their identity/culture.
- To nurture them to develop relationships, underpinned by trust, respect, empathy and resilience.
- To inspire and challenge them to have a natural love of learning, which will be their foundation for life.



Our values

Connection: whanaungatanga

Establishing reciprocal relationships. To develop a sense of identity, belonging, authenticity and gratitude.

Learning: Ako

Our programme balances structured learning and play. We inspire, challenge, extend, empower, and support, in an intentional and creative way.

Respect: Whakaute

To respect people, places, and things, including each other and our environment.

Kindness: Manaakitanga

To experience and demonstrate aroha (love), empathy, compassion, trust, and wellbeing.

Culture: Aurea

To know our culture and who we are. To celebrate our heritage. To embrace diversity.



Your child is unique... Summerfield is too

While all early childhood centres must meet government regulations, it's the differences that makes Summerfield stand out.

There is only one Summerfield.

Summerfield is a standalone centre that is not part of a chain. An independent centre means we can focus our energies on providing the absolute best care and education – because there is only one centre to concentrate on. It also means management is onsite and readily available at any given time.

Summerfield is set in stunning natural grounds.

Summerfield's outdoor environments are vast and spacious that allow for active exploration, discovery, and connection with nature. The focus of our natural outdoor environments is real grass, mature trees, and open spaces for large movement.

Inside, we have rooms on three levels that provide children with a variety of opportunities to explore in age specific environments.

Summerfield has an excellent reputation.

Summerfield is renowned as a centre of excellence and quality. We consistently receive positive feedback from children, families, and local schools. We have been operating for over 35 years and we continue to love what we do.

Summerfield was part of our family for more than 7 years and although we are sad that our journey has come to an end, we are so lucky to have had our children grow up in a centre surrounded by an amazing village of women that have nurtured, encouraged, and helped our girls flourish into confident school starters. Parents: Steph and Jason

Summerfield balances play and formal learning.

A different programme operates in each of our rooms, with the focus on relationships, respect, and education. Teachers understand the importance of learning through play, balanced with age-appropriate structured learning opportunities.

Summerfield has excellent teacher: child ratios.

Summerfield's ratios ensure children receive the quality care, attention, and education they deserve.

1:3 average teaching ratio with infants

1:4 average teaching ratio with young toddlers

1:6 average teaching ratio with older toddlers

1:8 average teaching ratio with preschool aged children

Support staff fulfil the important function of enabling teachers to focus on the children. Summerfield has: A Centre Manager; An Administration Manager; Two Professional Leaders, A Cook; A Housekeeper, Commercial Cleaners



Summerfield's 35-year history speaks for itself

In its 35-year history, Summerfield has influenced many children and many families... we want to celebrate this.

At Summerfield, every child matters. Teachers take an interest in children and their families and prioritise their learning and care.

This leaves leaders and management to focus on the day-to-day organization and operations of the centre.

From time to time, you may have a question, concern, or feedback to share with the management team. Because we're onsite, it is easy to talk to the person you need to.



Natural grass and trees

Although unusual for urban Albany, Summerfield is surrounded by mature trees, grass, and a truly natural environment.

We are proud of this because we know that children who learn about nature, gain a positive influence on engagement and experience academic success.

For further information visit Summerfield or refer to website www.summerfield.co.nz



The first five years are the most important... Summerfield understands this

Children's brain connections are built through positive interactions and by using their senses to interact with the world.

A child's relationship with responsive adults is the most important influence on brain development. This is why Summerfield teachers build safe and trusting relationships with children by being attentive, responsive, supportive, and respectful.

Because every child matters at Summerfield, we ensure high teacher to child ratios. This means that every child receives positive interactions every day.

Qualified and experienced teachers work with the children to foster their sense of self and to encourage a life-long love of learning.

To support this learning, we believe it is important for children to experience a balance of formal learning and self-discovery. To create this balance, Summerfield teachers intentionally prepare the environment to enable the children to explore independently. They also invite children to join in with the variety of planned experiences offered.

"Summerfield children have settled into school life very quickly, well prepared for all school entails". Upper Harbour School





Learning comes from many opportunities...

From the moment children are born they are learning. When they start at Summerfield their learning continues and becomes extension of what has come before.

An important way of learning is through play. In play, children explore the environment, select their own equipment, and initiate their own type of play. Over time, they start playing alongside other children and they interact with others. Play is fun, and when children are enjoying themselves, they are far more receptive to learning.

Group time is a part of the day that my son always talks about. He loves group time and enjoys the different types of learning. He gets very excited when he moves up to a new group.

Parent: Blair A

Group time provides an opportunity for formal learning in a small group, with the same group of children and teacher working together each day. This enables bonds to grow and allows teachers to get to know the children in their group.

We believe the best type of learning is a combination of both approaches, play and structured formal learning, being guided by Te Whariki – the Early Childhood Curriculum. At Summerfield, we know how important it is for teachers to have a thorough understanding of the curriculum and developmental theorists. This informs our planning and enables teachers to intentionally plan for individual children and groups of children.



Healthy eating habits start young... Summerfield encourages good habits

At Summerfield we understand the importance of good nutrition and the role it plays in your child's ability to participate, learn and grow.

Summerfield focuses on providing fresh, wholesome, nutritionally balanced food options for your child.

The four-week rotating menu is carefully designed by our in-house chef whose focus is on creating tasty, nutrient-dense meals and snacks using seasonal produce. We believe in introducing your child to a variety of foods so they can make healthy food choices and establish healthy eating habits.

Mealtimes are a further opportunity for learning and Summerfield uses

mealtimes to encourage self-help skills, table manners and social interaction.

At Summerfield, there are designated times for children to sit and eat and teachers ensure babies and children are supervised when they are eating.

For our babies, our chef makes fresh pureed food for when they start solids and with parental approval.

For children aged 4.5-5yrs, they will have days where our chef packs a full lunch box, complete with morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. This helps your child learn when and what to eat throughout the day, mimicking what they will be tasked with at school.

Allergies and Food Intolerances

If your child has a food allergy or intolerance, we ask that you let us know and share what medical professionals have advised. We have experience in dealing with many special dietary requirements and do all we can to support your family.

You eat with your eyes as well as your mouth...

Sight, smell, and taste are all important when it comes to food, as is introducing a variety of foods and textures.

Summerfield's four-weekly rotating menu ensures children experience a variety of food that is both nutritious and tasty.

Morning tea examples

Seasonal fruit platter

Savoury garlic bread served aromatic and warm.

Crunchy cheese toasties served with a selection of fresh fruit.

Toasted and buttered fruit bread.

Lunch examples

Wholesome Tarragon Chicken pasta, served with fresh broccoli.

Delicious bean and vegetable casserole served with fluffy mashed potato.

Creamy Tuna sauce served with white rice.

Afternoon tea examples

Seasonal fruit platter

Warm, fresh scones – plain, cheese, sultana or made into scrolls

Delicious fruit muffins - blueberry, raspberry, or apple.

Vegetable platter with cheese, hummus, and crackers

Children with special dietary requirements (including infants and young toddlers) have food especially prepared for them by our chef. For more information, please ask when you visit us.



What you need to know... the finer details

You may have read about us, and you may have been into visit, but here are the important details you need to know.



Hours

Summerfield is open 52 weeks of the year and is only closed on statutory holidays. Centre hours are Monday to Friday 7.30am - 6pm.

What Summerfield provides

Summerfield provides nutritious meals (morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and late snack), sunblock, an infant diary (if applicable), book bag for children transitioning to school and access to an online portfolio.

We ask you to provide (if applicable)

Nappies and wipes, bottles, formula and/or breast milk, a familiar sleep toy for settling and spare clothing.

Enrolment information

Pipi children must enrol for a minimum of 2 days and Paua and Pohutukawa children a minimum of 3 days.

We prioritise placements of 4-5 days and to existing families.

Fees

Our fees cover many aspects of our service including staff costs, food, facilities and operating costs.

Fees are calculated 52-weeks of the year, regardless of holidays or illness and we require these to be paid one week in advance by automatic payment. We offer a 10% discount to families with two or more children attending fulltime.

Fees	Full days (7.30am-6pm)
0-3yrs	2 full days \$232
	3 full days \$267
	4 full days \$350
	5 full days \$380
3-6 yrs (incl 20 hrs funding)	3 full days \$174
	4 full days \$248
	5 full days \$285

Fees	Part days (9am-3pm)
0-3yrs	2 part days \$210
	3 part days \$240
	4 part days \$320
	5 part days \$360
	<i>No part day option for 3-6yrs</i>

Communicating with you

Early childhood education works best when there is a partnership between families and Summerfield. We find verbal interactions at the beginning and ends of day are the most effective, but we use many other ways to communicate with you – one of which is Storypark, our online portfolio platform.

Storypark is an easy-to-use, password protected platform which allows you to stay connected with what your child is doing at Summerfield.

My son loves his portfolio. He likes looking at the pictures of himself when he was younger and seeing what he did and how he has progressed.

Parent: Michelle

Daily routines

Every Summerfield day is different from another, but each room has a daily routine to guide the day. Our routines allow for flexibility to meet individual needs and rhythms of the day but can change from day to day and moment to moment.

Pipi Daily routine (Infants & toddlers)

7.30	Children begin to arrive Inside and outside exploration
9.15	Mat time and handwashing
9.30	Morning tea
10.00	Morning sleepers go to bed
10.15	Inside and outside exploration Group activity for oldest children
11.15	Mat time and handwashing
11.30	Lunch time
12.00	Sleep time
1.30	Inside and outside exploration
2.15	Mat time and handwashing
2.30	Afternoon tea
3.00	Afternoon sleepers go to bed
3.15	Inside and outside exploration
6.00	Centre closes



Paua Daily routine (Toddlers)

7.30	Children begin to arrive Inside and outside exploration
9.30	Children separate into two groups for mat time and handwashing
9.45	Morning tea for both groups
10.15	Group time for all children
10.45	Inside and outside exploration
11.30	Children separate into two groups for mat time and handwashing
11.45	Lunch time
12.00	Sleep time and rest time followed by exploration and discovery
2.30	Children separate into two groups for mat time and handwashing
2.45	Afternoon tea for both groups
3.00	Inside and outside exploration
6.00	Centre closes

Pohutukawa Daily routine (Pre-schoolers)

7.30	Children begin to arrive Inside and outside exploration
9.00	Pukeko group time
9.30	Handwashing and morning tea
10.30	Group time for all children
11.00	Inside and outside exploration
12.00	Children separate into two groups for mat time and handwashing
12.30	Lunch time
1.00	Rest time and rest time followed by exploration and discovery
1.30	Pukeko group time
2.45	Handwashing and afternoon tea
3.30	Mat time
3.45	Inside and outside exploration
6.00	Centre closes



A sense of community unites people...this is important to Summerfield

Being part of a community gives us a sense of belonging and enables us to support others while being supported ourselves.

Summerfield provides a support network where parents can build lasting relationships and foster ongoing partnerships within our walls and beyond.

We also focus on giving back to the community by being involved in local projects and charities that serve to benefit others.

In keeping with our values, Summerfield believes that teaching children about donating to others

shows them that they can make a positive change in the world. Children naturally love to help others, so nurturing their generosity is likely to mean that they grow up with a greater appreciation for what they have.

Charities that we support include Starship Children's Foundation, Women's Refuge, the Cancer Society, Heart Kids, RSA, and many other charities.



The most important part of working in partnership with families is building and maintaining authentic relationships with you and your child.

Parents know their children best which is why we seek your input and ask you questions about family values, culture, and the aspirations you have for your child. Teachers use this information to build honest and trusting relationships, so children feel secure in our environment.

Settling children into Summerfield starts well before their first visit.

Before your child starts at Summerfield

You can help your child prepare for their time at Summerfield by:

Firstly, preparing yourself. You need to feel comfortable with the centre you have chosen and confident your child will have quality care. If you feel anxious about your child starting, they will notice this.

Talk positively about Summerfield. Tell them about the fun things they will do (e.g., painting, playing, climbing etc). Reinforce the fun they will have and remind them you will always come back to pick them up.

Encourage independence appropriate for their age.

For an infant or toddler, give your child time to explore on their own.

Encourage toddlers to sleep independently. Rather than rocking your child (or lying-in bed with them) sit beside them and lay a comforting hand on them so they know you are

there.

For an older child, encourage them to carry their own bag, feed themselves, and put their shoes on independently.

Orientation visits

It is important for children to feel safe and secure in a new environment. Prior to starting at Summerfield, children do a series of visits with a familiar adult. Children and a caregiver will visit Summerfield every day for at least one week to support their transition into the centre.

The structure of the visits is determined by how well your child integrates into centre life. Teachers will discuss your child's progress with you throughout the process and they will seek your input too. The visits look different for every child, and we work in partnership with you to ensure you and your child are supported.



Choosing the right centre for you and your family... every child matters at Summerfield

The decision on which childcare centre to choose is a difficult one and we know how important it is to find a centre that is best for you.



It is important for you to visit Summerfield before making any decision. We want you to see our programme in action and observe interactions between teachers and children. This is so you get a sense of who we are. When you view our centre,

a member of our leadership team will walk with you and discuss the centre and the benefits of sending your child to Summerfield. This visit allows you the opportunity to ask questions and confirm that our values align with yours.

At this time, you may want to apply for a position immediately, or you may wish to consider your options.

If you would like to apply later, you are welcome to visit our website and download an application form directly.

It is preferable that you make an appointment to visit Summerfield so we can guarantee a member of our leadership team is available to show you through the centre. If you choose to pop in however, we will happily show you around if we are available to do so.

If you would like to book an appointment or find out more about Summerfield, call us on 09 415 6867. Alternatively, you may want to look at our website before contacting us.

We look forward to sharing your child's journey with you.

