



INTRODUCING

Tania Jones



Kia Ora, I'm Tania! I have been an educator with Step 2 Growth since 2013 and in that time have come to meet some amazing wee children and their families. I have quickly discovered that the hardest part of the job for me is seeing my wee guys move on to the next stages in their ever-changing lives! In short, they grow up way too fast and as a mother of two grown children in their 20s, you would think I had worked out how to deal with that!

In saying that, the precious memories and special time I have with each of the children is well worth it for me and the fact that my husband of 25 years encourages my pursuits as well as enjoys his contact with the children as much as they enjoy him, makes me blessed. To this end I have completed my Level 4 Certificate in Early Childhood Practice.

I actively encourage the children to treat my home like theirs and they each have quickly come to do just that. In addition to the two toy rooms (one with the thought of a quiet space for reading and puzzles, and the other for more active pursuits such as train track play and building), we regularly set things up in the lounge and just take over the house - lol! Both rooms are also great spaces for the younger ones wishing to get in a nap. Inside flows out onto a large deck where we like to snack in the sun, and then down onto a large, concreted yard that great for bike racing and ball play.

We have built a large sandpit and chalkboard and have hung a swing under the trees. In the summer, we have regular water activities and like to employ the fence all year round to hang paper on and paint. Tables for other activities, such as play dough and collage-making, are also brought out regularly; and we also like to play ball and other games on the lawn around the back by the gardens, where we have grown some lovely flowers in the past.

Home-based care has become very important to me because I believe there is a lot to offer a child. They have the benefit of an educator who need only give their attention to a maximum of 3 other children. The opportunity to create relaxing learning scenarios and safe exploring activities is something I am positive is beneficial to all age groups.

There is also the added benefit of the depth of bond and care that develops for each individual child. Being able to get to really know a child allows us to make more informed learning plans catered personally to a child's strengths, lets us identify areas that need extra attention all while in a familiar and secure environment, and also allows regular input from their own families.

What I have to offer

- Home like environment the children can call their own.
- Time taken to build the strong relationships necessary to ensure children feel a sense of belonging.
- An abundance of play areas , activities and opportunities.
- Daily outdoor play with regular risky play opportunities.
- Regular excursions within the community to local music groups, parks, playgroups and more.
- Regular contributions of photos entries into the children's learning journals - lets face it who can bare to choose minimal photos from the thousands taken!
- Quiet space for the children to take themselves too as and when needed.
- Regular one- on - one opportunities to build strong relationships with care tamariki.
- Openness to invite new children in times of relief care to support other members of S2G.

