



INTRODUCING

Samantha Pilcher



Hi there! My name is Samantha and I have been an educator with Step 2 Growth since January 2014. Since then my passion for home-based has only increased! I am originally from America but moved to New Zealand to be with my kiwi (now) husband. We had our beautiful daughter in 2015, whom has since passed on from this world. We also have my wonderful stepdaughter who visits regularly. I have the Level 4 certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care, and I am looking forward to continuing my study soon.

My core belief is that children are capable, ready to learn, and deserve to feel loved, respected, and valued. I understand the importance of holistic development, positive environments, and the need to prioritise every child's health and well-being. I believe in giving children many opportunities to express themselves through conversations, play, artistic activities, music, and sensory play. I also believe that children thrive in an environment that shows respect, security, kindness, engagement, and fun.

I have a particular passion for learning New Zealand Sign Language and incorporating approaches within the Reggio Emilia teaching philosophy, which places a large focus on creating a feeling of community within their centre walls, in the families who attend, and in the town as a whole. It also allows tamariki to be in charge of their own learning and gives them many opportunities to think creatively, work collaboratively, and be heard. I actively work to create positive and reciprocal relationships with families in my care. I want every whānau to know their child is truly valued within my home.

Through my years so far within the ECE sector, I have seen the incredible effects of including multiple languages and ways of being. I have watched tamariki become increasingly confident in their ability to learn through the use of Te Reo and NZSL. Their faces beam with pride and joy at effectively using a word in another language. I have also seen how easy it is for children to accept others who are different if only they are given a bit of background knowledge in how we can all be different but still have similarities. As an educator, I absolutely love knowing that I can positively affect a child's life, and to a greater extent, the world too!

What I have to offer:

- A respectful, supportive, and caring environment.
- Indoor and outdoor areas that allow quiet time, cooperative play, physical and risk-play opportunities, and creative thinking.
- Activities that directly contribute to the social, emotional, physical, spiritual, and mental development for all tamariki based in play and the needs of the children involved.
- Both individual and group documentation of learning- Every child has their own journal with an individualised learning path based on their interests and development.
- We also have learning "themes" that come from the main collective interests of the group of tamariki enrolled.
- Daily and intentional use of Te Reo Māori and New Zealand Sign Language.
- A range of resources that include art materials, climbing frame, pretend kitchen, water play, books on a range of topics, carpentry tools, blocks, gardening, and play dough.
- Regular walks, playground outings, library trips, playgroups, and lots of fun!

