**Transition to School Policy**

**Rationale**

To ensure that all tamariki at Country Kidz Early Childhood Centre experience a smooth and comfortable transition to Primary School.

**Objective**

To foster collaboration between whānau, tamariki, and educators, enabling them to actively contribute to the transition to school process. To establish appropriate pathways and support systems that promote the wellbeing of tamariki, align with Te Whāriki, the New Zealand Curriculum, Te Marautanga o Aotearoa and reflect the philosophy of Country Kidz emphasising child-led learning.

**Policy**

Country Kidz will continue to affirm cultural identity by our kaiako and primary school new entrant kaiako supporting and affirming the uniqueness of all tamariki transitions. We will build upon tamariki existing knowledge and have positive expectations for their learning, ensuring that cultural connections are maintained during the transition process.

We will foster positive anticipation to encourage and scaffold tamariki to look forward to attending Primary School. Country Kidz kaiako will provide opportunities for tamariki to learn about the new rhythms, routines, and expectations they may encounter in school, fostering a positive mindset, and readiness for the transition. County Kidz will collaborate with local primary schools closely to further understand their daily routines, structures, and expectations. This knowledge will be shared with tamariki, preparing them for the school environment and helping them navigate the transition smoothly. Effective communication and collaboration between Country Kidz and local schools will support the sharing of information, addressing any concerns, and facilitating a cohesive transition experience.

The policy recognises the close parallels between Te Whāriki, the New Zealand Curriculum, and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa in supporting the wellbeing of tamariki. It acknowledges tamariki as competent and capable learners, aligning with the Statement of National Education and Learning, where learners and their whānau are at the center of education, ensuring inclusive opportunities and barrier-free participation. To this end, kaiako will engage in ongoing communication and consultation with whānau to understand their aspirations for their tamariki transition. Together, we will co-create an approach to the transition that respects the needs and preferences of whānau, ensuring a holistic and well-supported process.

**Implementation**

The transition to school process will be implemented by a lead transition kaiako and supported by the wider kaiako Country Kidz team. The transition process will acknowledge the uniqueness of the tamaiti and respect the aspirations of whānau, with open and authentic communication between all parties that prioritises the individual and personal nature of each transition.

Transitions will be unhurried and may include whānau and peer visits to appropriate primary schools, liaison between early childhood education and primary schools, meet and greet opportunities, and the ability to gradually incorporate tamaiti into the school environment in a way that works for them.

All information shared during the transition process will be treated in line with our Country Kidz Privacy Policy.

*Aligns with:*

*Licensing criteria for centre-based ECE services, amended September, 2022 (C3, C4, C7, C10)*

*Human Rights Act 1993 (amendment 2001)*

*Te Whāriki. Early childhood curriculum. Ministry of Education (2017)*

*Ministry of Education (2019). He Māpuna te Tamaiti. Supporting Social and Emotional competence in Early Learning*

*Country Kidz Philosophy*

*Country Kidz Privacy Policy*

*Country Kidz Positive Guidance Policy*

*Country Kidz Curriculum and Planning*

*Country Kidz Te Tiriti o Waitangi Policy*

*Country Kidz Parental Involvement Policy*

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