



*“Play is the highest  
form of research”*

- Einstein

## *Ficino Preschool – quality at a glance*

- Children will learn through directed enquiry that encourages their natural inquisitiveness and independence.
- Qualified and registered teachers
- High child-teacher ratios
- Holistic curriculum integrating innovative practices
- 4-year old enrichment programme
- Supporting smooth transition to school
- All food requirements catered for with nutritious vegetarian food
- 20 hours ECE funding

## **Building strong foundations**

Ficino Preschool is a boutique early childhood centre, set in the grounds of Ficino School and based in the heart of Mt Eden. Catering to 3 and 4 year-olds, the Preschool provides an enriching holistic programme that builds and develops children's character and values.



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*“Persistent questioning and healthy inquisitiveness are the first requisite for acquiring learning of any kind.”*

*- Gandhi*

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## Ficino Preschool

*Developing a child's potential - promoting excellence and strength of character*

- Create a safe haven for children to grow in self-belief and confidence
- Provide a space in which curiosity can develop and imagination knows no bounds
- Build a place of belonging where reciprocal relationships can take root
- Offer new challenges and strengthen character through experience
- Teach strategies for thinking, inquiring, experimenting and reasoning
- Support children to serve their community and make positive contributions
- Help the children to learn to focus their attention and be responsible
- Encourage collaborative learning and socio-cultural exchanges
- Provide opportunities to gain new knowledge and skills
- Develop an awareness and understanding of the wider world
- Teach an empowering curriculum based on the framework of Te Whāriki (the national ECE) curriculum
- Individually tailor support and guidance
- Teach the importance of good health and mindfulness.

**See [www.ficino.school.nz/preschool-vision](http://www.ficino.school.nz/preschool-vision) for more information on the preschool's vision and values.**

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*“I know but one freedom and that is the freedom of the mind.”*

- Antoine de Saint- Exupery

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## Parents and family

It is our privilege to work in partnership with you to lay the foundations for your child’s wellbeing and success. We believe and practice the proverb “it takes a village to raise a child”; we look forward to sharing in your child’s journey as they grow and learn, developing values of truthfulness, respect, resilience, responsibility and obedience.

The regular exchange of ideas and experiences will provide a continuous link between home and school. You will be informed of your child’s progress and experiences through their learning portfolio as well as regular informal catch ups and planned parent-teacher interviews. We invite feedback on your child’s progress at home to assist and inform in the planning of their next developmental step.

**[Visit ficino.school.nz/preschool-family](http://ficino.school.nz/preschool-family) for more information.**

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*“I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.”*

- Mother Teresa

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## Innovative curriculum

Enquiring minds are supported and enhanced through the use of teaching materials and programmes that draw inspiration from credible curricula including Montessori, Reggio Emilia and Rudolf Steiner.

Woven through the heart of Ficino Preschool is a holistic curriculum infused with spirituality, vision and values. The provision of a non-denominational spiritual foundation supports children’s understanding and practice of the unifying values, qualities and practices of our shared humanity.

**[Visit ficino.school.nz/preschool-about](http://ficino.school.nz/preschool-about) for more information.**

## Purpose-built space

We believe in simplicity. The learning space is designed to be welcoming, beautifully ordered and calming, thus allowing the children’s attention to focus on the individual or group activity chosen or presented. Within the different learning zones, high quality equipment has been selected to stimulate the interests of children and encourage independence. Our emphasis is on natural, real-life materials.

## Preschool life

Ficino Preschool's programme operates between 8.40am to 3.20pm daily. Early-bird drop off is available from 7.40am for a fee, children may be signed into Preschool from 8.20am. Ficino after school care is available when the Preschool programme has finished for the day but will need to be considered on a case by case basis.

The daily programme includes periods of exploratory play, group learning, restful pauses, music, physical activity and structured tasks. Throughout the day, in both planned and spontaneous activities, numeracy and literacy awareness together with knowledge and skills development is consciously integrated by the teachers.

### Meals

We strongly believe a healthy, balanced diet is central to good learning. An in-season, vegetarian menu that includes lunch, morning and afternoon tea will be served. Children with food allergies will be catered for.

### Uniform

Preschool children wear a Ficino polo-shirt with the addition of a polar fleece in winter. A choice of track pants, leggings, skort, or shorts and a hat, complete the uniform.

[Visit ficino.school.nz/preschool-life](http://www.ficino.school.nz/preschool-life).

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*"We need to teach the next generation of children from day one that they are responsible for their lives."*

*- Elisabeth Kubler-Ross*

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## More information

Visit [ficino.school.nz/preschool-about](http://www.ficino.school.nz/preschool-about) for more information on the application, interview and enrolment process, together with all the required forms.

The fees schedule is available at [www.ficino.school.nz/preschool-fees](http://www.ficino.school.nz/preschool-fees).

[Visit ficino.school.nz/preschool](http://www.ficino.school.nz/preschool) for more information.