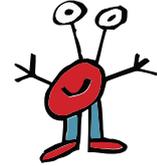


# Catherine

Otago

## WILD THINGS

Home-based Early Learning



### Operating Hours

**Monday** — 8.00am - 3.30  
(flexible)

**Tuesday** — 8.00am - 3.30  
(flexible)

**Wednesday** — 8.00am - 3.30  
(flexible)

**Thursday** — 8.00am - 3.30  
(flexible)

Contact us

**Enquire Online**

Call us

**0508 338 2273**

### Experience

Originally from Ireland, I graduated with a Bachelors in Early Years and Childhood Studies. Since moving to New Zealand six years ago, I have worked as an Early Childhood Teacher and hold a Full Practicing Certificate.

I have been very fortunate to work in some beautiful settings, alongside knowledgeable teachers whom have helped expand and deepen my practice.

Our day is underpinned by predictable rhythms and rituals, providing a sense of security for children. Daily time in nature is a given, be it in the garden or exploring further afield. We are fortunate to live near Chingford Park, with its little creek, wonderful climbing trees, bush walk and playground. I love to embrace all weathers, which is very possible with the right clothing!

### Home Environment

Welcome to our little home on the hill! I share my home with my partner and our baby. Our space is bright, welcoming and has been thoughtfully set up as an invitation to play. I truly believe children are deserving of a beautiful and orderly environment, which is reflected in the carefully chosen resources. Drawing on my experience as a Montessori guide, I strive to provide a prepared environment, one where everything has its place and the resources children need to engage in independent activities are readily available to them. Outside you will find a terraced garden made safe for little legs to enjoy. here there is an organic vegetable

garden, greenhouse, abundant flowers and little nooks and crannies to explore.

## **Childcare Philosophy**

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The places I have enjoyed working at most replicate a home. Home based care makes so much sense to me as children can experience an authentic loving home environment. Having children of mixed ages together offers beautiful opportunities for tuakana-teina relationships . Above all the child needs to feel safe, loved and respected. Relationships underpin all I do, with each child being held with the respect and esteem they so deserve. I believe each child is on their own pathway of learning, working at their own pace. I strive to provide ample time for children to work uninterrupted at things that are important to them. Free play is such an integral part of childhood and my role as an educator is to provide an environment and resources that inspires a deep engagement in play.

I see children on a continual quest for independence and my role is to support to do things for themselves. This involves taking the time to model and demonstrate how to do something and then giving children the time and space to practice for themselves and see mistakes as a valued part of the learning process. Ample time outdoors forms a major part of our daily rhythm and is fundamental to healthy development.

## **Community Involvement**

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Wild Things facilitate a lovely playgroup and nature group which we are happy to be part of. Special excursions to art galleries, museums, libraries and beaches emerge from the children's interests.