Tess

Canterbury

HOMEGROWN KIDS

Tiaki ngā tamariki



Experience

I love working with children because they remind us adults to slow down, prioritise meeting our basic human needs and look at the world with fresh eyes. Children see the wonder, awe and beauty that can be found in our nature, simply by being alive - something us adults need regular reminders of! The flip side of early childhood is that it is the most vulnerable time in our lives. A time during a person's life where total dependance is placed on trusting adults to provide, care for and anticipate a child's basic needs without them being entirely capable of voicing them clearly. I am not yet a parent myself, but I can just imagine the kind of worries you go through as you navigate everything in your child's life to act for the safety, well-being and quality of education for your children's needs. Choosing the right childcare for your little people will serve your family well as your children grow up and it is a really important task that I understand should not be taken lightly, so I'm glad you are here exploring Home Based Childcare as I believe it is the best possible option for caring for your children outside of your home or with grandparents. As for more about my own experience and the reason I have started my own Home Based Childcare service in 2026 is that I know what it is like to be a vulnerable child in the big adult world without adequate support for my needs. It became my life's purpose from early life to now at 31 to create safety for and around myself, a skill born from necessity, that I have the experience to gift out to others as my working contribution

Operating Hours

Monday to Friday 7.30am - 5.30pm (or by arrangement)

Contact us

Enquire Online

Call us

0508 338 2273

to the world. I was drawn by my own personal desire towards parenthood since my late teens, and specifically, that desire has lead me to obsessively self study learning about child development and natural human health/wellbeing, which carried me to begin a Nannying internship through which I gained my Level 3 qualification working with a deaf family with hearing children; 8 month old girl/boy twins and a 2.5 year old girl. This was an absolute dream experience for me which launched me into ECE as a profession with focus upon in-home / home based care as I have found this is the best way to deeply connect with children and families, to become one of a child's few primary caregivers through which a safe bond is created to encourage learning that occurs when children's nervous systems are regulated. I went on to complete my Level 4 ECE Home Educator training in 2019, and have since worked with ages from 6 months - 6 years and older, with a range of families from diverse cultural backgrounds, with differing neurodiversity needs. In my personal life, I have a lot of recent experience supporting my husband's family with our niece who has a rare developmental condition that requires a higher level of understanding and adaptive support. I believe that no one knows your child better than you, but I can offer a second set of hands to give you a break to focus on your work in the world as someone who takes genuine interest in the quality of care your child receives to ensure they have the best foundation from which to grow into healthy, secure, thriving adults, which is everything I would wish for myself and any future children I would be blessed to have. My skill set is suited towards anyone looking for a calm, relaxed and emotionally regulated childcare service as I believe children who are emotionally regulated and calm have more capacity to learn and develop.

Home Environment

My husband Matt and I have owned our home in Halswell since 2020. Our house is within walking distance to Westlake park where there is a playground with swings, slides and play equipment, a lot of open grassy areas for running around, lakes with a bush area to walk around and lots of wildlife nearby. We have a small grassy outdoor space and a fully fenced section with a mix of garden area with concrete which can be used for activities like water play, messy play, chalk painting, riding on tricycles. We have pets at home that are part of our family: cats/dog(s). The pets have their own zones where they are separated from the play spaces, and interaction with them at a distance will be minimal. At this point in time, the dogs go to doggy day care during childcare hours. You can see a family photo including the dogs if you view the images attached. I use couch covers and play mates over the floor plus I remove beds/family blankets from the play space during care hours so all of the childcare items and floor covers are clean, I also pay special attention to keeping the outdoor areas clean and hygienic for children to play on as part of my routine so there is minimal impact from the animals at home. I have a lot of toys and play resources which you can view some of in the images, plus I will be rotating new and seasonal toys, books and play experiences into the days as time goes on, including messy play, sensory play, outdoor play equipment etc. My home is your child's cosy home-away-from-home where there are lots of different spaces both for quiet time, sleep time and meal times, to play time of various modalities. I 3x brand new car seats fitted for my Subaru Outback for safe transport to play groups, tumble times, willowbank, the library and the likes if you are happy for your child to enjoy excursions into the community. I have a dedicated nursery sleep room for under 2's with two cots made up and quiet space available for older children needing to rest, I also have two high chairs and supplied

bibs, a child size table and a second hand double push chair for going out on walks or to the park. I would ask for families to supply children's nappies, spare change of clothes, a water bottle and specialty milk or foods as most other than these items are included in my service. I play guitar and sing, so you can trust there will be music and dancing. As a hobby as well as a learning tool, I love to get stuck into a good book, so you can expect your children will enjoy being read aloud to for story time as an important part of every single day; it's so good for their learning, vocabulary, imagination building, sense of calm, sleepiness and comfort of routine. I see so much value in getting outside in nature as much as possible, any kind of weather, to the beach or park, or in the garden, which we can do regularly together whether it's to feel the warmth of the sun or to splash in the puddles. I am currently continuing to build a portfolio of really cool resources to plan toy rotations for your children the more I get to know their interests, ages and stages for appropriate play.

Childcare Philosophy

My childcare philosophy is built from understanding of by the work of famous physician Gabor Mate in his reflections on childhood, Janet Lansbury of Respectful Parenting, Nathan Wallis on the first 1000 days/brain development, Pikler/RIE methodology/Magda Gerber. I'm inspired by gentle reinforcement of behaviours we want to cultivate, understanding what is being communicated underneath the less desirable behaviours, supporting children with their physical and emotional regulation needs, providing children with space for self-directed learning through play, supporting children’s routines daily with consistency as this is what will give them the most energy to explore the world with curiosity and curiosity is at the key to deepening understanding. I’m all about Home Based Childcare as one of

the best ways for under 5s to learn through play as the environment is calm, consistent and warm which naturally keeps the nervous system and therefore the brain and body in a regulatory state. I stand behind the benefits of home-based care of being able to grow up simulating their home environment, having consistent primary caregivers, reducing the over stimulation that occurs in modern child care centres as well as reducing children's exposure to illnesses while still strengthening immunity.

Community Involvement

We get stuck into anything from story time at the library to our Home Grown Kids play groups in the community, tumble times, music or story times, local farms, museums, playgrounds, the beach. I'm open to you as the parents, to suggest activities based on your child's specific needs and preferences. I would currently love to be attending Willowbank weekly and including as many excursions as possible to work around and within the children's routines for children enrolled in my care. Parental consent is requested to ensure permission before attendance for excursions.