

## **Benefits of Bush Park**

### **Well-being/Mana Atua**

- Children can make their own choices, to express their emotional needs and trust they will be responded to.
- Children develop the confidence to take risks without fear of harm, self-regulate, and develop resilience and independence.
- Children develop the knowledge about how to keep themselves safe from harm and help others stay safe including physical safety, safe plants, and bugs to touch etc.
- Children develop respect for tikanga, rules about harming the environment and reasons for such rules.

### **Belonging/Mana Whenua**

- Children develop knowledge of their local bush area with other spiritual significance such as river, beach, statues/plaques, and their place in this environment.
- Children develop skills for caring for the environment, papatuanuku and anything living in the bush.
- Children feel comfortable with the rules, routines, and customs of our regular bush days and learn to cope with changes.
- Children learn to recognise and appreciate their ability to learn and develop a curiosity about the world.

### **Contribution/Mana Tangata**

- Children learn with and alongside others. They develop strategies and skills for initiating, maintaining, and enjoying relationships with others.
- Children develop turn-taking skills, problem solving, negotiating, and supporting others.
- Children develop the confidence to contribute/share ideas for bush activities. They develop an understanding that trying things out, exploring, playing with ideas and materials with others are important and valued ways of learning.

### **Communication/Mana Reo**

- Children further develop verbal communication skills for a range of purposes such as discussion on the day's adventures, expressing their feelings and emotions, play, sharing ideas, incorporating their language etc.
- Children develop ways to express themselves non-verbally in a range of ways such as through singing, playing, storytelling and with natural resources.

### **Exploration/Mana Aoturoa**

- Children gain confidence in and control of their bodies including agility, balance, coordination, and confidence to use their bodies, to take risks and physical challenges.
- Children learn strategies for active exploration, thinking and reasoning where they can make sense of the world in the bush with the use of all senses.
- Children develop a relationship with the natural environment, papatuanuku and a knowledge of their place in the bush.
- Through exploring in the bush, children develop respect and a sense of responsibility for the well-being of the living environment with the knowledge of how to care for it.