



CULTURAL NARRATIVE

Who we are and where we come from...

OUR JOURNEY

Established in November 2000, Magic Garden is located on Carlisle Road, a traditional pathway and significant commuter route. Our families connect to work through East Coast Bays Road to the Bays area and Oteha Valley Road to the Northern Motorway.



OUR ROOTS

Nestled in the northern East Coast Bays, our home has been cherished for generations, initially welcoming settlers from the Tainui waka. This land has a rich history, contested by many iwi over the centuries, including Ngāti Wai, Ngāti Whātua, Waiohū-Tāmaki, and Marutūāhu groups. Ngā Herenga Waka o Orewa, a non-tribal marae, is our closest marae.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The cliffs of the East Coast Bays once supported many pā sites and villages, thriving with easy access to the Waitematā Harbour and inland waterways like Okura, Deep Creek, and Lucas Creek. Traditional industries included fishing, timber harvesting, weaving, boat building, and orchards.



DIVERSE COMMUNITY

While our local area has a lower population of Māori and Pasifika compared to national averages, it boasts a rich diversity of migrants. At Magic Garden, 18% of our children have English as a second language, and another 18% use a second or third language at home. Our staff also reflects this diversity, with two-thirds speaking a second language.

INCLUSIVITY & EXPRESSION

A core concept of our practice is inclusivity. We embrace the idea that a child has '100 languages,' a metaphor for expressing oneself through various forms such as painting, dance, music, gesture, dramatic play, clay, and more. This approach ensures that children can express themselves beyond the constraints of language skills.



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Magic Garden is a proud member of Oneroa Kahui Ako, our local community of learning, which networks early childhood centers with primary, intermediate, and secondary schools. We maintain close links with local primary schools such as Sherwood, Torbay, Glamorgan, Oteha Valley, and Long Bay, ensuring our students transition smoothly into their next educational stage.

Magic Garden creates a nurturing environment where every child can thrive and express themselves in myriad ways by weaving together our rich cultural heritage and diverse communities.



magic garden
early education